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OPINION METER

This week's poll: Do you support the proposal to put up pachinko parlors at the former La Fiesta Mall?

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PANDEMIC ALERT

As of July 7, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pan-

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in humanto-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE



MJ Memorial

The stage was set Monday for Michael Jackson's final act.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Charter flights between Guangzhou, Saipan resume. PAGE 5 Fund stops refund payments

Admin to use \$4M ARRA funds for hospital operation. PAGE 3

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

REPORTER

he NMI Retirement Fund will suspend the payment of refunds to its members beginning Sept. 1, 2009, until such time that the Fund is no longer in a fiscal emergency.

See FUND on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

Fund forms team that will negotiate with govt. PAGE 3

Adopted kids won't be Fund beneficiaries by Sept.

'Fund not for kids of retirees' children'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

Citing abuses in previous years, the Re-

tirement Fund has decided to stop accepting retiree adoptions for survivor benefits purposes.

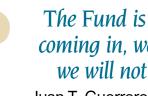
The decision, unanimously adopted

by the board of trustees, will take effect Sept. 1 and will apply to applicants who file adoption requests after that date.

The board directed the Fund management yesterday to stop processing any

See ADOPTED on Page 4









-Juan T. Guerrero, chairman, NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees

Submerged lands bill on hold until NMI leaders can agree



TALENT SEARCH

Students from the Northern Marianas College's Educational Talent Search Program pose for a picture with Maj. Greg Sablan, second from left, and PFC Jeff Bacani, far left, during their recent summer campout at PauPau Beach. Aside from a presentation from Sablan and Bacani on Army survival skills, the students also participated in setting up camp, swimming, and barbecuing. ETS is a federallyfunded program under the U.S. Department of Education that prepares high school students for college success.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili"

C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday he is putting on hold any further action on submerged lands legislation, until the local CNMI leader-



Sablan

ship reaches a consensus on the issue.

Sablan met with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Senate President Pete P. Reves on Saipan last week, and separately with

See SUBMERGED on Page 4

Muña: Scrap cap on alien workers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. chief Tony Muña asked the Legislature yesterday to remove the cap on the number of alien workers employed with CUC to avoid compromising the agency's ability to generate and distribute power.

"We really need some relief there

See MUNA on Page 4



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NMI govt opposes Sablan motion in OGA issue

The government on Monday opposed the motion of Rep. Tina Sablan for the CNMI Supreme Court to reconsider the stay it granted on the release of the documents related to the government's lawsuit against federalization.

The Office of the Attorney General said the trial court, which had granted Sablan's Open Government Act petition, "improperly shifted the burden of proof and ignored the only established case law it was presented with."

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This decision, the OAG said, must be overturned, so the stay is necessary to maintain the status quo until the Supreme Court can consider arguments from the beginning.

The OAG said that quashing the stay would "irrevocably damage" the government because established case law compels the conclusion that the documents should not be released.

"Once the documents are released they cannot be called back and the damage cannot be undone," the OAG said in its appeal.

"A stay is proper in this case in

Plan 1

order to preserve the status quo and to allow the appellate court to take up the issue. The central issue in this case is whether or not the documents should be released," OAG argued. "The trial court found the documents exempt under the Act but found, incorrectly, that it had the discretion to release them."

A stay pending appeal is necessary, the OAG said, because when a document must be disclosed under the Open Government Act, it must be disclosed, regardless of objections, to the public, so "once the documents are disclosed the damage cannot

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The OAG said that Sablan resorts to a common argument that the government would not be damaged by releasing documents that contain some information that is already in the public sphere.

"That there is some public knowledge of the basic facts contained within the documents does not argue in favor of releasing the documents," the

In Sablan's argument that Fitial and Inos failed to prove that the government will not be harmed because the information

is already public knowledge and that the stay would allow them to operate in secrecy, the OAG said "she cannot have it both ways."

It said the trial court's decision is flawed because it shifted the burden of proof, ignored established case law it was presented with, and relied on case the OAG said.

law that was not analogous to buttress its decision.

"If this court quashes the stay, the government will be forced to follow a demonstrably flawed order and will be damaged by releasing documents that every other court that has looked at the issue has declined to release,"

Customs officer who allegedly fired gun while drunk summoned to court

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR. n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The CNMI Superior Court has summoned a female customs officer to appear in court in connection with her alleged firing of a gun several times outside her home while under the influence of alcohol.

Clerk of court Bernadita A. Sablan issued the summons on June 25 to Ramona M. Magofna, telling her to appear in court on July 13. If Magofna fails to show up, she will be arrested.

Police arrested Magofna in May on the strength of a warrant issued by the Superior Court.

Magofna, 30, was allegedly intoxicated when she fired her gun several times outside her the scene of the incident.

home in Kagman III in the early morning of May 15, frightening her neighbors.

She was charged with three counts: unlawful carrying of a firearm, carrying a firearm under the influence of alcohol, and disturbing the peace.

She was not taken to the Superior Court for a bail hearing because she immediately posted a \$5,000 cash bail.

Police investigators reported that Magofna admitted firing her gun because she was tired of her neighbors coming around to her house and messing up her flowers.

Police officers recovered .223 rifle, 12 empty casings and four live rounds of ammunitions at

Group defends A. Samoa wage hike

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Common Cause American Samoa says it does not support the petition being circulated to stop the federally mandated increases to the local minimum wage.

The petition has been backed by the local Chamber

of Commerce

The watchdog group is sending its own letter to President Barack Obama saying the idea that holding or rolling back the scheduled increase in the local minimum wage will somehow make for a better life, flies in the face of common sense.

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BRUCE **L. M**AILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA **B. K**ARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

Fund forms team that will negotiate with govt

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

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Six persons were named yesterday as members of the Retirement Fund team that will face the CNMI government in negotiating the terms of how the

government will pay the \$231.6 and board Fund counsels Jim million it owes the Fund.

The Fund board unanimously voted to send board vice chair Pedro Q. Dela Cruz, trustee Sixto K. Igisomar, trustee Adelina C. Roberto, Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon,

Hollman and Viola Alepuvo as its negotiating team members.

The CNMI Superior Court recently ruled that the CNMI government owes the retirement agency \$231.6 million in employer contributions and de-

creed that a payment plan must be set by both parties.

The board transmitted yesterday an official notice to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on the appointment of the team members who will deal with the administration's representatives.

Board chair Juan T. Guerrero, in his letter to Fitial and presiding officers of the Legislature, asked for an opportunity to meet with the executive and legislative branches' representatives in order to continue settlement discussions and come up with a payment plan to address the court's June 29, 2009, judgment.

Guerrero said they will wait for the governor's response and stand ready and willing for the opportunity to continue the settlement dialogue, which the Fund and the Executive Branch have been engaged in for the past two months.

In an interview, Guerrero said he opted to recuse himself from the team because he believes that "new faces" will result in a constructive outcome for the agency.

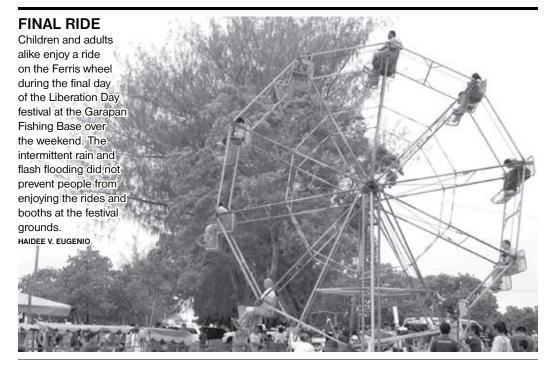
"Having new faces [on the team] probably would be more constructive for the Retirement Fund and will move this settlement negotiation forward," he said.

Guerrero admitted that some members of the Senate view him as a "radical"—one of the reasons he decided not to join the negotiating panel.

But with the presence of some trustees on the team, he said he is confident that the group would best represent the view of the Fund.

Guerrero, who has been vocal in criticizing the administration's and Legislature's "shortcomings" on issues involving Retirement Fund, said he is just doing his fiduciary duty as a trustee.

He hopes that settlement discussions will start soon.



Admin to use \$4M ARRA funds for hospital operation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

moneth deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The CNMI Executive Branch intends to use its share of the stimulus funds to cover expenses at the island's lone hospital, based on the application Gov. Benigno R. Fitial submitted to the federal government.

The CNMI stands to receive a total of \$44 million in stimulus funds. Of that amount, \$32.3 million will go to the Public School System, \$3.9 million will go to the Northern Marianas College and the remaining \$8 million, which falls under the government services fund, will go to the Executive Branch. These funds will start coming in next month.

Of the amount that will go to the Executive Branch, \$4 million had been identified for use at the Commonwealth Health Center and the Department of Public Health to cover expenses associated with providing services. These include medical referral expenses, personnel costs, and general operational expenditures critical to the delivery of healthcare services.

In the last several years, CHC has been finding it difficult to deliver all needed services due to the lack of funding. The hospital workforce has also been suffering due to the much lower salary compared to U.S. mainland rates.

The Fitial administration will also use some \$3 million plus to make up for the shortfall resulting from the cut in the CNMI's Compact impact funding, which is projected to reach only \$1.9 million next fiscal year.

"This reduction in funding impacts critical services inclusive of education, health, and public safety," the report said.

The CNMI government intends to use the funding to maintain the fiscal year 2010 funding levels for PSS, public health, and public safety, which each get a share of the Compact impact money.

The remaining \$1 million is being eyed to establish a "credible" financial management system within the government. Saipan Tribune learned that the current financial management system being used by the CNMI government—a JD Edwards Financial Management System that was upgraded as recently as 2008—was purchased under the financial management implementation project.

The Fitial administration defines a "credible" financial

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management system as one that includes a budget module, accounts receivables module, and a human resource module.

The Finance Department will also upgrade the existing operating system to a JD Edwards World web-based operating system.

PSS earlier said that it will use a big bulk of the \$33.2 million it will get to restore 111 teachers and counselors positions, and for the modernization and rehabilitation of campuses.

NMC, meantime, will use its share to develop program offerings and to hire personnel that are key to maintaining its accreditation and quality of instruction.



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Reyes: No plans to seek lenient sentence for Tim

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said yesterday he is not aware of plans by any government officials, including Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, to ask the federal court for a lenient sentence for former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez.

"That is a federal court matter outside of our local government's jurisdiction," said Reyes when asked by *Saipan Tribune* if Fitial has plans as governor or in his personal capacity to request the U.S. District Court for the NMI to consider a lenient sentence for Villagomez.

Reyes said he not aware of any further involvement in the case by the CNMI government or its officials. U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson on Monday denied the request for a new trial for Villagomez, James Santos, and Joaquina V. Santos in the Rydlyme corruption case.

Villagomez and the Santos

couple are set to be sentenced on July 28, 2009.

So far, only former attorney general Robert T. Torres has written to Judge Munson to describe the virtues of Villagomez.

Torres asked the judge to consider and weigh his com-

ments in sentencing his cousin, Villagomez.

"He [Villagomez] is a good man who has committed a bad offense but Tim remains a brother and I remain grateful for his guiding hand in my formative years," the former AG said.

FUND

From Page 1

In a unanimous vote yesterday, the Fund's board of trustees adopted a resolution stopping the payment of contribution refunds to its members as a drastic move to stanch the bleeding of the Fund's finances.

The directive will take effect on Sept. 1 after publication and general circulation.

Fund trustee Sixto Igisomar clarified, however, that whoever applies for contribution refunds between now and Sept. 1 will not be affected by the newly adopted resolution.

He emphasized, though, that all refund applications coming

in between July 8 and Sept. 1 will still be subject to board approval.

Fiduciary duty

The board disclosed that the Fund has already fallen below 40 percent of its total funded accrued actuarial liability of total obligations in the last five years. Currently, the Fund is 39 percent funded and has consistently failed to reach a level of 50 percent since fiscal year 2000.

In their decision, the trustees said they sought—to no avail—the help of the administration and the Legislature in order to address the Fund's fiscal emergency due to the 2008 decline in investment markets and drastic Fund drawdowns due to non-payment of employer contributions and other government obligations.

The trustees yesterday said they are just doing their fiduciary duty to protect the Fund's assets.

Board chair Juan T. Guerrero said the Fund releases over \$5 million each year as refunds for members who resign from government service and withdraw their contributions.

"The Fund is at risk and with no new money coming in, we're jeopardizing the Fund's life if we will not stop payment of these refunds," Guerrero said. "Our choice here is to keep the Fund afloat and continue paying the monthly benefits of members."

'Severely diminished'

As of May 31, 2009, the Fund has already paid out \$40 million in refunds since the passage of Public Law 15-98, which increased to 15 years the window of time for eligible class 1 Retirement Fund members to withdraw their contributions if they want to.

"The board has been for years gravely concerned that the Retirement Fund assets have been and are being severely diminished and/or impaired by the acts and/or omissions of the government and the Legislature," the board's resolution reads.

Fund administrator Mark Aguon said the current policy states that any Class 1 member can get a refund of their contributions if they render less than 15 years of government service. For Class II members, its under 20 years. All applications for refunds must be approved by the trustees.

The Fund earlier said it had uncovered several cases where some members would resign from government service, withdraw their contributions, then immediately transfer to other government positions—a clear violation of the law that mandates 90-day period before being re-employed with the government.

ERISA guidelines

The Employee Retirement Income Security Act, or ERISA, provides that a pension plan may not make lump sum or other accelerated payments and provides for the cessation of

benefits under a plan that is less than 60 percent funded, as well as the cessation of certain benefit payments under the plan.

The board said that private pension programs subject to ERISA laws would have already stopped lump sum or other accelerated payments and had benefits frozen if their funding level was at the Fund's current level.

"The board, and the Retirement Fund, although not subject to ERISA, looks to case laws interpreting ERISA and case laws from other jurisdictions with similar constitutionally protected pension plans as persuasion in interpreting and implementing laws mandating the management of the Retirement Fund," the board stated.

ADOPTED

From Page 1

changes or additions to applications for retirement that seeks to add more beneficiaries arising through adoptions until such time that the Fund recovers from its fiscal distress.

Fund board chair Juan T. Guerrero, during yesterday's meeting, emphasized that the action was prompted by the recent court judgment that had also blamed the Fund for the mess it is currently in.

In its June 29, 2009, judgment, the Superior Court had criticized the Fund as "partially responsible" for the mess because it has been too generous

in allowing grandchildren and great grandchildren of the first generation of retirees to obtain benefits long after the original retiree has died.

The court said the Fund was designed to provide for retirees and their spouses and it is assumed that when a person retires, his or her children are already grown up.

"The Fund is not for the children of the retirees' children. This is unfair to future retirees who could possibly see the original retiree's family avail themselves of the Fund for over 18 years," the court judgment stated.

The Fund noted that many of its members adopted other individuals after retiring, with the

effect of enhancing retiree survivor benefits for persons who were not listed as beneficiaries in the original submission of the application.

This, the board said, increased the Fund's unfunded liability.

According to board trustee Sixto Igisomar, this decision should have been done a long time ago by the previous Fund administrations.

Legislative failure

Board chair Guerrero said the move is in response to the Legislature's failure to help protect the Fund.

A bill that seeks to prevent this abuse was introduced in the House in February 2008 but it has been sitting in committee since then and there has been no action on it for well over a year.

"That bill is just sitting and collecting dust at the Legislature," Guerrero told the board.

Although Fund members may still apply for adoptions from July 8 to Sept. 1, Guerrero said he's just hopeful that the court will consider the Fund's situation.

Amendments to any retiree adoptions must go through the court for approval.

Asset decline

It was learned yesterday that Fund assets plummeted from over \$500 million in 2007 to about \$300 million in 2009—a mere two years—due to the global market decline in 2008

and investment drawdowns used to pay pension payments.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Fund was forced to liquidate and withdraw investment assets in order to pay pension benefits and contribution refunds in the following amounts:

- almost \$4 million in FY 2000;
- over \$3 million in FY 2001;
- over \$4 million in FY 2002;
- over \$3.5 million in FY 2003;
- over \$3 million in FY 2004; ■ almost \$3 million in FY 2005;
- \$4.5 million in FY 2006;
- over \$5 million in FY 2007; and
- over \$5.5. million for FY 2008

For the current fiscal year, the

Fund had already drawn down \$1.5 million for pension obliga-

***\$121M drawdown** in five years'

tions as of December 2008.

The Fund's trustees also disclosed that since 2005, a total of \$121.5 million has been withdrawn from the Fund's investments.

These drawdowns, which were made to meet pension obligations and refund payments, have seriously impacted the Fund's ability to increase its investment portfolio.

The Fund, the board said, has been for years gravely concerned that its assets have been and are being severely diminished.

SUBMERGED

From Page 1

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, but was not able to get all three leaders to reach an agreement.

"I asked the local leadership to co-sign a letter supporting the submerged lands legislation, H.R. 934, which was scheduled for approval by the House this week," said the CNMI congressman. "Or, if they could not agree among themselves to support the bill, I asked them all to sign a letter saying they could not reach agreement.

"To date I have heard nothing from the leadership. So, I have requested that the bill not go to the floor of the House for a vote this week," he said. "It remains my goal, however, to pass legislation conveying submerged lands to the people of the Northern Mariana Is-

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lands in this Congress."
Sablan acknowledged that

the Northern Mariana Islands

Senate did pass a resolution in support of H.R. 934 last week. "This is a very helpful and clear statement," Sablan said. "And I thank President Reyes and the Senate for responding in this way."

Sablan also said he understands that the presidential proclamation creating the Marianas Trench Marine Monument has complicated the submerged lands situation. Fitial wrote to Sablan in May

expressing concern that legislation might change the monument.

"The Governor, the Speaker, and the Senate President negotiated the terms of the monument with the Bush Administration," said Sablan. "And I can understand they would want to be sure that any submerged lands legislation makes no change to the proclamation

"I respect their desire to keep the product of his negotiation unchanged. And I want to respect the proclamation they negotiated.

"So I need an official statement of agreement from them regarding the bill now under consideration in Congress to be sure it meets their standards.

"On such an important issue as conveying submerged lands to the people of the Commonwealth it would be disrespectful to move forward without everyone's concurrence." (PR)

MUNA

From Page 1

because there's really a lack of qualified local applicants," Muña said.

Muña discussed the importance of allowing CUC to hire more highly-skilled nonresident workers during a meeting with the Senate's Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and

Communications.
PUTC chair Sen. Paul Manglona was present, along with senators Maria Frica Pangelinan

and Jude Hofschneider. Rep. Tina Sablan was also invited to the meeting.

Muña stressed that if there are qualified locals for the positions, they are given preference. He also cited CUC's apprenticeship program so local residents can take over the positions when the contracts of alien workers expire.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Muña said it is very important for CUC to fill up the positions, considering the required overhauling of power engines and the necessary maintenance that go beyond 2009.

"After the overhaul, the maintenance cycle will not stop," he said.

Muña said they expect the process of overhauling all power engines to go beyond 2009 and until September. 2010.

"And we need qualified personnel, skilled personnel to effect the overhaul," he said. "We had a cap the last time and we're coming back because the cap is insufficient and we asked today for no cap."

Muña noted that people are leaving the island and many are also retiring.

He said qualified nonresidents who could be hired are essentially here in the CNMI.

"We need mechanics, operators, technicians, some accountants. We may need some engineers too and computer people," he added.

Public Law 16-14 bars CUC from hiring more than the 19 non-U.S. technical workers who are presently employed with the agency.

Without relief from this law soon, Muña said CUC may not be able to maintain a safe system.

In his latest order extending

CUC's state of disaster emergency by another month, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said a major challenge to carrying out the rehabilitation of the power engines is finding as soon as possible eight more mechanics and eight more operators who are needed to carry out this project and run the equipment.

The report noted a shortage of U.S. professionals with experience in CUC's type of engines.

CUC had tried to hire diesel mechanics in the CNMI, but has been unsuccessful in finding qualified candidates.

Since March 2009, CUC has been trying to hire 16 new employees—eight mechanics and eight power plant operators.

The report stated that CUC vigorously recruited locally, but as of the present only three qualified operators have been hired.

At the same time, CUC lost another three plant employees, who resigned for various reasons.

"While CUC may be able to bring in entry-level trade assistants, it still needs 16 qualified technical employees to make the production system work right," according to the declaration.

Tony Babauta named ass't secretary for insular areas

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

President Obama has announced his intention to nominate Guam resident Tony Babauta as Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas with the U.S. Department of the Interior. The nomination is subject to Senate confirmation.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, through press secretary Charles Reyes Jr., extended yesterday his congratulation to Babauta, who previously worked with the U.S. House's Natural Resources Committee as staff director for the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs.

"We look forward to working with him on critical CNMI issues," Reyes said.

Babauta is currently a senior adviser to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar.

Guam Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo, who chairs the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, said she joins the Guam community in congratulating Babauta on the White House's announcement.

"President Obama and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, in making this announcement, have signaled their commitment to the insular areas by elevating this position to an assistant secretary level," said Bordallo in a statement.

The Guam delegate said that Babauta has the professional knowledge and experience to be effective in his new post.

"We look forward to his future confirmation and his leadership on insular issues for the administration," she said.

House Natural Resources Committee chair Nick J. Rahall said Obama and Salazar made a wise choice.

"Born and raised on the island of Guam, and a long-time and dedicated government staffer, I know that Tony has the skills and cultural knowledge needed to help oversee public policy decisions for the people living in our U.S. territories and Freely Associated States," Rahall said.

Rahall said Obama re-established the position at the assistant secretary level for the first time since the Clinton Administration.

"The renewed focus on this position demonstrates that President Obama and Interior Secretary Salazar have a clear commitment to ensuring the best interests and needs of the insular areas are attended to at the highest levels of government," he said.

Salazar said that Babauta's vast experience and his familiarity with both the people and the policies of the U.S. territories and other U.S.-affiliated island nations make him an excellent choice for the position.

"As a native of Guam, Tony will be the first person in this position to hail from any one of our U.S. territories. The department looks forward to the



JUDE MARI

In this file photo, Tony Babauta and CNMI Delegate Gregorio C. Sablan pose for the camera at the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs office.

outstanding leadership he will provide," Salazar said.

In his congressional position, Babauta advised the full Natural Resources Committee on policies affecting the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the CNMI as well as the Freely Associated States of the Federated States

of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Salazar said Babauta was instrumental in advancing the renegotiated compact with the Republic of the Marshall Islands and FSM, the Guam war claims legislation, and the political advancement of Puerto Rico.

Babauta also oversaw the

subcommittee's jurisdiction and responsibilities toward the Interior Department.

Babauta joined the Natural Resources Committee in 1998 as professional staff under its then-ranking member, Rep. George Miller. His service to the committee continues under then ranking member and now chairman, Rep. Rahall.

Just arrived for the whole family!

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Got Pesticides?

Dispose of your used, unwanted, un-labeled, misbranded, cancelled pesticides and pesticide containers at the **Pesticide Amnesty.**

- SAIPAN Thu, July 16 at the Kagman Agricultural Station and Koblerville Fire Station
- ROTA Fri, July 17 at the Sunset Villa property
- TINIAN Sat, July 18 at the Dept of Public Works (fenced) area

Amnesty collections will start at 8am and end at 4pm at all sites.



This amnesty is a collection of pesticide and related hazardous wastes that require disposal due to age, condition of containers, contamination, no labels unregistered or cancellation.

This Amnesty Disposal funded by the USEPA Region 9 Pesticide & Superfund Programs and coordinated by:



DEQ 664-8500 **DLNR** 256-3318 **SMO** 234-6208 **NMC-CREES** 234-5498 ext.1432

Historic preservation focus of Rota meeting

Historic preservation officers from eight Pacific island nations started their five-day consultation meetings with the U.S. National Parks Service yesterday on Rota.

The meetings are being held simultaneously with the CNMI's hosting of the 30th Annual Micronesian Endowment for Historic Preservation that is ongoing from July 7 to 11 at the Rota Hotel.

Representatives from Guam, American Samoa, Palau, Yap, Kosrae, Chuuk, Majuro and the CNMI are reporting on current developments and various issues each jurisdiction face in the area of historic preservation.

The chief of the Cultural Resources Team of the National Parks Service, Hank Florence, and the manager for the Micronesia and Polynesia programs, Paula Falk-Creech, are spearheading

the consultation meetings.

Most of the federal funding for the HPOs comes from NPS, which is under the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Juan Diego Camacho, compliance specialist for the CNMI's HPO, said about 50 participants are joining the meetings, including representatives from the Public School System and staff from the Rota Mayor's Office.

Just last week, staff from the CNMI-HPO-Merti Kani, Ronnie Rogers, Lufo Babauta and Roke Magofna-attended the first Pacific Archeology Conference hosted by Palau.

The Marianas Archeological Research Center in Guam funded the trip of two other officers from the CNMI, John Castro and Herman Tudela. (Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)

Managaha gets red flag

The Division of Environmental ria can indicate the presence of Quality has raised the red flag on Managaha Island and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of the site for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from Managaha were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bactehuman and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzed a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPOR P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055 Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: July 8, 2009

Closing date: July 31, 2009

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

1 (one) Accounting Manager (Re-Announcement) 1 (one) Ports Police Chief

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more that six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, July 31, 2009.

Minimum Qualifications:

Accounting Manager: Graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) plus seven (7) years of progressive responsible experience in accounting or a four (4) year accounting degree or related field from an accredited US college or university with no less than two (2) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional accounting level of which two (2) years pertain to supervisory experience. Experience in the use of computerized systems, highly preferred is experience in MAS90. Experience in reconciling accounts receivable, accounts payable, preparation of Journal Entries and Collects.

This position is on a fast track for Deputy Comptroller. Accordingly emphasis will be given to applicants who have advanced degrees or are CPA candidates.

Ports Police Chief: The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is seeking energetic and professional minded person to fill the position of Ports Police Chief. Must have college degree as AA degree in police science or law enforcement related field with at least 10 years work experience in police work or BS or BA in Police Science or law enforcement related work with at least 5 years experience. (None degreed applicants must have at least 15 years of law enforcement experience with 5 of those years in a responsible position managing personnel and equipment. Must have strong reading and writing capabilities)

This position is responsible for the entire ports police functions at both the airports and seaports on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Must be well verse or shows the ability to become thoroughly familiar with TSA, FAA, US Coast Guard Homeland Security and CPA regulations.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. For more information, please contact the Executive Director by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E. **Executive Director**



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950 **HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE**



PROMOTIONAL AND OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: PSS - 2009 - 052 Position Title: LEGAL COUNSEL

Application & Employment Type: Non-Certified

Pay Level/Step: UNGRADED Opening Date: JULY 2, 2009
Location: PSS – BOARD OF EDUCATION Per Annum Salary: \$40,000.00-\$60,000.00 Closing Date: JULY 17, 2009

Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays Minimum Requirements:

Graduation from an U.S. accredited college or university with a Juris Doctorate degree. Applicant must be a member in good standing of the CNMI bar or a member of a state bar and qualify to practice law in the CNMI. The applicant must also have at least five (5) years legal work experience, preferably for government entities handling government contracts and/or education issues.

*Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Floor Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd FLOOR RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE. (2) TRAN-SCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER. (5) RESUME. AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATÉ (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

Guangzhou-Saipan flights resume

Charter flights between Guangzhou, China and Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands have resumed, providing direct flights from Guangzhou to this U.S. vacation paradise.

Following a 10-month hiatus, the charters are scheduled twice a week departing Guangzhou on Mondays and Fridays. The first flight departed Guangzhou at 7:30pm last Friday, July 3, and arrived on Saipan at 2:40am on Saturday, July 4.

a most welcome move," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "China remains an important market to us, and we hope many Chinese visitors will enjoy our islands while these charters are available."

The charters are scheduled to run through Sept. 30, 2009. Tinian Dynasty Holidays is operating the charters with China Southern Airlines equipment. "The resumption of the TDH and MVA have been work-

Guangzhou-Saipan charters is ing to spur travel by promoting the charter flight resumption in newspaper advertisements, press releases and press conferences in China.

> The 757 aircraft has 195-seats, bringing 390 seats available each week from Guangzhou.

> TDH and the MVA also welcomed 28 media and travel agents to the Northern Marianas for the charter flight resumption. The media visited the islands of Tinian and Saipan and returned to China yesterday, July 7. (MVA)

Judge nixes motion to vacate DUI conviction

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR. REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos denied yesterday a motion filed by John F. Furey to set aside his conviction in a drunk driving case two years ago.

Furey filed the motion after completing the terms of his conviction but Inos said this does not entitle the defendant to vacate his conviction because it would not serve the ends of justice or the best interest of the public.

Furey was involved in a car collision along the highway in Dandan on Jan. 20, 2007. Responding police officers tested him and found him to be under the influence of alcohol.

The defendant entered into a the law a motion to withdraw

Pacific food security crucial-

government on Aug. 22, 2007.

He was sentenced to 30 days imprisonment, placed on a oneyear probation, fined \$600, \$25 assessment fee, \$90 probation fee, was ordered to attend an alcohol information class, and his license was suspended for 30 days.

Furey's asked the court to set aside his conviction after completing the terms.

This could have allowed him to withdraw his guilty plea to prevent "manifest injustice."

Furey stated that prior to his conviction, he and the opposing counsel agreed upon a disposition.

But Inos clarified that under

negotiated plea agreement with the a plea of guilty may be made only before sentence is imposed, and a criminal defendant has no absolute right to withdraw a guilty plea.

Inos said the "manifest injustice" standard is designed to deter defendants from pleading guilty simply to test the weight of their potential punishment then withdraw their plea if punishment is unexpectedly severe.

"A plea of guilty is, and should be considered by itself, a conviction of the highest order, constituting an admission and confession of guilt," Inos wrote.

In this case, Inos said there exists none of the circumstances that meet the "manifest injustice" standard when a guilty plea was entered.

-health mınısters

MADANG, Papua New Guinea-Pacific Island health ministers have appealed to all sectors of the community to support local food production and to demand access to a healthier range of imported foods. This will encourage pride in local food, promote local industry, facilitate trade in healthy food, and help tackle mounting health problems arising from poor nutrition.

The health ministers, gathering at Madang in Papua New Guinea this week in their eighth meeting, considered how best to ensure food security in the Pacific—a region that is increasingly subject to impacts such as climate change, population pressures, and global financial upheavals. The meeting is supported by the Western Pacific Regional Office of the World Health Organization and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

They noted the dangers of increased consumption of imported foods of poor nutritional quality and a neglect of traditional food systems. To combat this, the ministers endorsed WHO and SPC recommendations on the need for a declaration and framework for action to guide Pacific Island countries and territories on how to better address food security now and in the future.

The key messages are to strengthen local food production and consumption and to ensure the nutritional quality and safety of foods traded in the Pacific. They want people to grow more local food and to consume a higher proportion of local food in their diet; industry to show responsibility for consumers' health by reducing levels of fat, salt and sugar in processed food; and governments to set and enforce clear standards promoting both health and trade. (SPC)



Coconut Club provides your children with a wide range of supervised activities that includes swimming, drawing, organized games and lots of fun.

Duration: June 15 to August 7, 2009 (Mon-Fri) Operation Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Ages: 4 - 11 years old

Registration Fees

Session #1: Full day with lunch \$40.00 per day Session #2: Full day without lunch \$ 35.00 per day Session #3: Half day with lunch \$20.00 per day Session #4: Half day without lunch \$15.00 per day

> Coconut Club activities list **Swimming** Beach activities Nature walks Face painting Sing along Cooking Handcraft





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MELL SEMBAWANG	015E	6/27 Sat	6/25 Thu	6/25 Thu	6/23 Tue	6/20 Sat	7/3 Fri	6/29 Mon	6/28 Sun	6/21 Sun	6/21 Sun	6/29 Mon	7/3 Fri	7/5 Sun	7/7 Tue
MELL SENOKO	024E	7/4 Sat	7/2 Thu	7/2 Thu	6/30 Tue	6/27 Sat	7/10 Fri	7/6 Mon	7/5 Sun	6/28 Sun	6/28 Sun	7/6 Mon	7/10 Fri	7/12 Sun	7/14 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	023E	7/11 Sat	7/9 Thu	7/9 Thu	7/7 Tue	7/4 Sat	7/17 Fri	7/13 Mon	7/12 Sun	7/5 Sun	7/5 Sun	7/13 Mon	7/17 Fri	7/19 Sun	7/21 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	016E	7/18 Sat	7/16 Thu	7/16 Thu	7/14 Tue	7/11 Sat	7/24 Fri	7/20 Mon	7/19 Sun	7/12 Sun	7/12 Sun	7/20 Mon	7/24 Fri	7/26 Sun	7/28 Tue
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Inbound	Voyage	ETA	ETD	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA	ETA							
from Asia	No.	Gu	iam	Saipan	Yap	Koror	GenSan	Davao	Cebu	Hongkong	Kaoshiung	Busan	Yokohama	Manila	Singapore
MELL SEMBAWANG	015E	7/11 Sat	7/12 Sun	7/12 Sun	7/14 Tue	7/16 Thu	7/17 Fri	7/19 Sun	7/21 Tue	7/24 Fri	7/25 Sat	7/30 Thu	8/18 Tue	8/2 Sun	7/29 Wed
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MELL SENTOSA	024E	8/15 Sat	8/16 Sun	8/16 Sun	SKIP	8/20 Thu	8/21 Fri	8/23 Sun	8/25 Tue	8/28 Fri	8/29 Sat	9/3 Thu	9/22 Tue	9/6 Sun	9/2 Wed

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Red Cross health and safety training

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety training in July 2009:

- Adult CPR July 25, 2009, Saturday, from 8am to 12pm
- First Aid July 25, 2009. Saturday, from 1pm to 5pm
- Infant & Child CPR Aug. 15, 2009, Saturday, from 8am to 1pm

The training fee for adult CPR and first aid is \$30 per person/ per course and the training fee for the infant and child CPR is \$35 per person. A participant's booklet is required. Participant's booklet is \$5 each and is good for all three courses.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. **(PR)**

St Jude 10th Annual **Golf Tournament**

The St Jude 10th Annual Golf Tournament tee off time is at 7am, Saturday, July 11, at Lao lao Golf Resort's West Course. Call Fr. Charlie Borja for tickets at 288-0007. Banquet im-

Manager Trainee

If you are a leader with a management

Able to work and manage 7 or more

College Degree not required

Retail Experience preferred

Must be computer proficient

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mediately follows after tournament. (PR)

LOI deadline for **Democratic Party**

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands would like to announce to interested candidates that the deadline for submitting letters of intent to run as a Democrat is July 10. Letters can be emailed to nmidemocrats@gmail.com. Questions should be directed to Credentials chair Pete Arriola at 287-7769. Individuals who want to register as an NMI Democrat are encouraged to do so. The Democratic Party welcomes all who want "New Beginning, New Leaders, New Direction." (PR)

Live fire releases on FDM set

The U.S. military will be conducting live fire releases (96 EBS) on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on July 8 - 9, from 4pm to 1am.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla training area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

Saipan Mayor's Office sets new system for requests

Effective July 1, 2009, the Office of the Mayor of Saipan will no longer respond to requests for water delivery, picnic tables, road repair, coral delivery, and community service projects through telephone calls. Those making the request must go to the Mayor's Office in San Antonio and fill out the necessary form before service is rendered.

At times, these services are also temporarily stopped when fuel, oil and lubricant provisions are suspended by the fuel provider when payment to the vendor is not received on time from the Department of Finance. When this situation arises, services will resume only when the fuel accounts are restored by the vendor. (PR)

Marianas High School reminders

For incoming freshmen, turn in you Blue Immunization Health Card to the MHS Registrar's Office between 8am and 4pm,

For ongoing students, pick up your 4th Quarter Report Card from the MHS Counseling Office between 8am and 4pm,

Registration is ongoing for new students. Pick up a registration form at the MHS Registrar's Office between 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday. (PR)

DEQ brigade sets

Ouality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Aboni Beach

Those who would like to

Monday to Friday.

Monday to Friday.

cleanup

The Division of Environmental in Garapanon July 11, 2009.



Re<u>nt-to-O</u>wn

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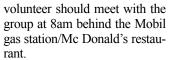
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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REPROGRAMMING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Program Year	Activity No.	Activity Type	Activity Name	Activity Status	Amount from program	Reprogram to
2008		Public Facilities	Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Rehabilitation of Buildings B, F, and G	Cancelled	\$800,000.00	
2008		Public Facilities	CNMI Football Complex	New		\$800,000.00

The public is invited to provide written and oral comments on the proposed reprogramming. Written comments will be accepted no later than 4:30 p.m., August 7, 2009, at the main office in Garapan, Post Office Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Oral comments may be relayed to Zenie P. Mafnas at telephone number (670) 234-7670, 6866, 7689, or 9447. Also, a public hearing regarding the reprogramming will be held at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Cafeteria on August 13, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. Public comments will also be welcomed at such time. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations to submit comments may also contact Zenie P. Mafnas at the telephone numbers above for assistance.



This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. (DEQ)

MCS to host alumni dinner fundraiser

The officers for school year 2008-2009 of the Mount Carmel School Parent Teacher Organization, in cooperation with Mount Carmel School, will be hosting an MCS Alumni Dinner on July 24, 2009 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

The event aims to raise funds to help the ongoing efforts to refurbish the aging school gymnasium/cafeteria. The event will be from 6pm to 10pm and will host various speakers and slide presentations.

Tickets, which are \$50 per person, are now on sale at the Mount Carmel School business office and from MCS PTO board officers. All check and money order payments should be made payable to Mount Carmel School. For more information, contact the MCS PTO Board Officers at e-mail address mcsptoboard@yahoo. com, or call the MCS business office and leave your contact information. (PR)

NMC English placement tests set

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting English placement tests for Summer Session II and the Fall 2009 semester:

	July 2	lpm - 4pm	D-1
	Aug. 3	1pm - 4pm	D-1
_	A	F O	D 1

■ Aug. 5 5pm - 8pm D-1 ■ August 6 1pm - 4pm D-1

■ Aug. 13 5pm - 8pm D-1 ■ Aug. 14 9am - 12pm D-1 ■ Aug. 21 9am - 12pm A-5

Registration for Summer Session IIa (July 6 - Aug. 14) will continue until July 2. Registration for the Fall 2009 semester will begin on Aug. 17 and end on Aug. 21. New students are required to take the English placement test before register-

ing for classes. Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

There is a \$25 fee each for the English placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (M-F, 9am - 4pm). If you have any questions, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Department at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 2017 or Mona Camacho at Ext. 1242. For additional information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)



July 8, 1999

In street naming dispute, condition set for compromise

Stung by ongoing debate on the street naming project by the Office of the Saipan Mayor, Rep. Melvin Faisao vowed yesterday to work toward a compromise to bridge opposing views on condition that the proposal from the Carolinian community must first be given a "fair" deal. He expressed hope for the immediate resolution to the differences which, according to legislators, have threatened to drag further the 10-year project and divide the local community. Faisao has accused some officials of discrimination over apparent snub on the list of recommendations prepared by the Carolinian Affairs Office which have not been included in the proposed street names approved by a commission created by the municipal government.

Anti-pornography bill revived

Alarmed by numerous complaints against some shops in the tourist district of Garapan openly trading pornographic materials, Rep. Malua T. Peter is trying to resurrect a three-year old legislative proposal that will impose stiffer penalties on violators. She said the measure is very critical now in view of potential harmful effects of these "offensive" materials to minors and the increasing incidents of sex crimes on the island, including child molestation and rape. "It's the responsibility of the government to ensure that we have these restrictions in place and implement rules and regulations," Peter said in an interview.

July 8, 2002

Burglars break into Legislature

Burglars with somewhat unorthodox motives broke into the Legislature building over the weekend, taking off not so much with valuables but a laptop, a computer battery and some important documents. The missing items were mostly from the office of Senate Minority Leader Pete P. Reyes but an inspection showed that offices of at least six other offices in the building had door handles that bore marks of attempts at being forced open. These were the offices of House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider, Senate President Paul A. Manglona, House Floor Leader Jesus T. Attao, Reps. Stanley T. Torres, Frank DLG. Aldan and Andrew Salas. The door to the office of Senate Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano was okay but the exit door was unlocked.

Chata'an knocked Rota down

Typhoon Chata'an unleashed its fury Friday when it passed by the Northern Marianas, leaving Rota heavily devastated-fallen debris obstructed the roads, most of the crops were destroyed, and the island was in total blackout. On Saipan, the strong winds and heavy rains also prompted the evacuation of more than 200 individuals in different evacuation centers designated by the Emergency Management Office. Chata'an caused a power pole to fall to the ground near the Rota Commonwealth Health Center, as the typhoon damaged a major water line connecting the Alesna Cave Spring to the Ka'an reservoir. The water lines supply services to Sinapalo II and Songsong Village, which are among the populated villages on the island.

July 8, 2003

Minority calls on Dela Cruz to step down now

Senate minority members are willing to reinstate the regular order of business at the upper house if convicted Sen. Jose M. Dela Cruz resigns immediately. The embattled Tinian senator was expected to tender his resignation letter yesterday but the Office of the Senate President confirmed late yesterday afternoon that no such letter has been submitted as of press time. Senate President Paul A. Manglona said yesterday morning that he was still awaiting Dela Cruz's resignation letter. Minority leader Sen. Pete P. Reyes said that Dela Cruz's swift exit is necessary for the Senate to restore its credibility.

NMI to lift SARS ban in two weeks

Public Health Secretary James Hofschneider reportedly advised the Babauta administration to lift the travel restriction for CN-MI-bound visitors from China and Taiwan by July 11 and 19, respectively. Press secretary Peter A. Callaghan said Hofschneider made the recommendation to Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente during a Cabinet meeting yesterday. Callaghan said the administration would most likely follow Hofschneider's recommendation. The travel ban was earlier imposed in the wake of the SARS scare that shut down virtually all ports across the globe.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2009 9

Island Snapshots



STIMULUS FUNDING

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, second from left, signs the revised application for over \$44 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant that will fund mostly the Public School System, as well as Northern Marianas College and government operations, particularly to cushion the impact of Compact Impact funding loss. Witnessing the June 25 signing on Capital Hill are Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, left, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, second from right, and NMC President Dr. Carmen Fernandez, right.



MARPI DETONATION

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 acting administrator Laura Yoshii smiles for the Saipan Tribune after witnessing the detonation of over 1,000 lbs of unexploded World War II ordnance in Marpi on June 25, 2009. Yoshii was on the island for the Micronesian climate change conference hosted by the EPA.



WELCOME TO SAIPAN

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A sailor patrols the Port of Saipan where the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Charlotte was docked last Friday. Sailors from the submarine participated in this past weekend's Liberation Day parade along Beach Road in Garapan. The Charlotte left Saipan yesterday.



BROWNFIELDS GRANT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 acting administrator Laura Yoshii, left, presents a giant replica of a \$750,000 check to Department of Public Lands Secretary John Del Rosario, third from right, and two other DPL representatives at the closing session of the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference at the Saipan World Resort. Also in the photo are Division of Environmental Quality director Frank Rabauliman, second from right, and Pankaj Arora, right, of the U.S. EPA Region 9 Brownfields Program. The U.S. EPA has given \$1.5 million in brownfields grant to the CNMI since 2006 for the assessment and cleanup of unexploded ordnance on the islands, including areas in Marpi.



BACK ON ISLAND

Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan talks to reporters at a news briefing on July 1 at his office in Susupe, where he announced a \$2.9M federal grant for the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality to protect the Laolao Bay coral reef. Sablan also called on the Friends of the Monument, the Fitial administration and the Legislature to come together on issues surrounding the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument presidential proclamation. Sablan was on island for the Fourth of July festivities.



ENGAGED!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Steven Eames and Leny Tadeo on your engagement! May your new life together be full of happiness, love and many blessings! Advanced congratulations on your upcoming wedding in Huntington, California! Greetings from the Demapans and friends.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Gleezerie Castro, who is celebrating her 7th birthday today. "May the good Lord shower you with blessings on your special day and may you have many more birthdays to come."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion



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EDITORIAL

A \$10 billion add-on: Conditions for building military base in Guam too costly

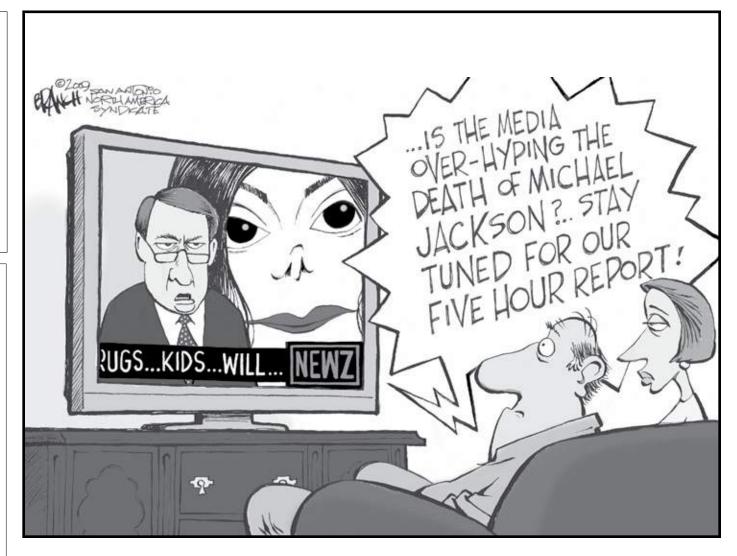
ucked away in the 2010 Defense Authorization Bill just passed by the House is a provision that should give senators—and taxpayers—pause. Over the next five years, 17,000 U.S. troops and dependents will relocate from Okinawa to a new base on Guam. This project will require billions of dollars to build the base itself, as well as billions more to repair and add to Guam's infrastructure. The \$10 billion projected cost is to be split by Japan and the United States: Japan would supply \$2.8 billion directly and an additional \$3.2 billion in third-party funds while the United States would contribute \$4.2 billion.

That was the plan. But the provision inserted by Rep. Neil Abercrombie, D-Hawaii changed all that. It has more than doubled the cost of the relocation by requiring that at least 70 percent of the construction force be U.S. citizens and that construction workers be paid at the Hawaiian prevailing wage rate, which is double to triple Guam's. The ostensible rationale is that Guam does not have a large enough workforce to meet the demand, and it is necessary to bring wage levels into a competitive range to attract U.S. workers. But the initial estimate for construction expenses was near \$300 million, while the change would drive construction worker compensation costs to more than \$10 billion.

If giving U.S. workers jobs on Guam is a priority, this could be accomplished without driving wages up artificially to such a high level. You could, for example, keep the 70 percent restriction on foreign workers and let the market determine their wages. But given that Japan is paying for much of the relocation, does it make sense to limit the participation of Japanese construction firms and their workers?

These provisions will complicate a process already fraught with challenges. Guam's overburdened infrastructure will be sorely taxed by the new arrivals, who will amount to a 14 percent population increase, requiring an estimated \$6.1 billion of work on roads, water, sewerage, waste processing and the power grid. Since Guam's annual budget is less than \$1 billion, this money will have to come from outside. Why add to the burden on taxpayers with these unnecessary provisions? It is tempting to seize on any plan that tries to offer Americans jobs, but this cost is too great.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



Obama's strategic blind spot

"A

re there not other alternatives than sending our armies to chew barbed wire in Flanders?" During the bitter winter of 1914-15, the first lord of the Admiralty posed this urgent question to Britain's

The eighth anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, now fast approaching, invites attention to a similar question: Are there not other alternatives than sending our armies to choke on the dust of Iraq and Afghanistan?

Back in December 1914, the Admiralty's impatient first lord was Winston Churchill, appalled by the slaughter on the Western Front. Intent on breaking the stalemate, Churchill became a font of ideas. Mired in Flanders? Then launch an amphibious assault against the Dardanelles, he urged. Were German machine guns cutting down British Tommies venturing into no man's land? Then support the infantry with tanks.

Yet Churchill's innovations failed to deliver a quick resolution. Instead, they prolonged the war and drove up its cost. When the guns finally fell silent in November 1918, "victory" left Britain economically and spiritually depleted. Revolution wracked much of Europe. And the seeds of totalitarianism had been planted, producing in their maturity an even more horrendous war. Some victory.

Churchill and his Cabinet colleagues had spent four years dodging fundamental questions. Fixated with tactical and operational concerns, they ignored matters of strategy and politics. Britain's true interest lay in ending the war, not in blindly seeing it through to the bitter end. This, few British leaders possessed the imagination to see.

A comparable failure of imagination besets present-day Washington. The Long War launched by George W. Bush in the wake of 9/11 has not gone well. Everyone understands that. Yet in the face of disappointment, what passes for advanced thinking recalls the Churchill who devised Gallipoli and godfathered the tank: In Washington and in the field, a preoccupation with tactics and operations have induced strategic blindness.

As President Barack Obama shifts the main U.S. military effort from Iraq to Afghanistan, and as his commanders embrace counterinsurgency as the new American way of war, the big questions go not only unanswered but unasked. Does perpetuating the Long War make political or strategic sense? As we prepare to enter that war's ninth year, are there no alternatives?

Pragmatists shy away from first-order questions—recall President George H. W. Bush's aversion to what he called "the vision thing." Obama is a pragmatist. Unlike his immediate predecessor, he inhabits a world where facts matter.

Yet pragmatism devoid of principle will perpetuate the strategic void that Obama inherited. The urgent need is for the administration to articulate a concrete set of organizing precepts—not simply cliches—to frame basic U.S. policy going forward.

By ANDREW J. BACEVICHSpecial to the *Los Angeles Times*



What should those principles be?

First, the Long War may be long, but it should not get any bigger. The regime-change approach—invade and occupy to transform—hasn't worked; simply trying harder in some other venue (Somalia? Sudan?) won't produce different results. In short, no more Iraqs.

Second, forget the Bush Doctrine of preventive war: no more wars of choice; henceforth only wars of necessity. The U.S. will use force only as a last resort and even then only when genuinely vital interests are at stake.

Third, no more crusades unless the American people buy in; expecting a relative handful of soldiers to carry the load while the rest of the country binges on consumption is unconscionable. At a minimum, the generation that opts for war should pay for it through higher taxes rather than foisting a burden of debt onto their grandchildren.

Fourth, the key to keeping America safe is to defend it, not to project American muscle to obscure places around the world. It may or may not be true that a "mighty fortress is our God"; had the U.S. been a mighty fortress on 9/11, however, the 19 hijackers would have gotten nowhere.

Fifth, by all means let the U.S. promote the spread of freedom and democracy. Yet we're more likely to enjoy success by modeling freedom rather than trying to impose it. To provide a suitable model, we've considerable work to do here at home. Meanwhile, let's not deny others the prerogative of defining for themselves exactly what it means to be free.

Now, some may view these principles as inadequate. Fair enough: Come up with something better. The point is that unless we get the fundamentals right—and we haven't since the Cold War ended—the U.S. may yet share the fate suffered by Churchill's Britain, reduced from engine to caboose in the course of his own political career. Those are the consequences of strategic drift.

Obama has appointed czars for a host of issues, his administration today employing more czars than have occupied the Kremlin throughout its history. Yet there is no czar for strategy. This most crucial portfolio remains unassigned.

That's unacceptable. Obama needs to appoint someone to fill the position—or he could claim it for himself.

The Saipan Tribune welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number **EDITORIAL POLICY** of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Sabalu-preneur: Sol Consuelo Cabrera-San Nicholas

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

The Wild Flower of Sambangan!

elieve it or not, there are people who've lived on Saipan for years who are still not familiar with one of the island's best-kept secrets: The Sabalu Market!

"Sabalu" is the Chamorro word for Saturday, and every Saturday, from about 6am to 11am, on Beach Road, across from the Marianas High School in Susupe, you'll find a gathering of farmers and vendors and their abundant displays of locally-grown and harvested fruits, vegetables, plants, flowers, eggs, livestock, shrimp, and fish for the community to enjoy.

And when you stop by this Saturday, (and you WILL stop by this Saturday), be sure to visit the Greenlife Local Fresh Produce tent where you'll be greeted by the friendly smile of one of the Sabalu Market Farmers Association's original members, and today's first featured Sabalu-preneur, Sol Consuelo Cabrera-San Nicholas.

Sol is originally from Sambangan on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines. (My research reveals the name "sambangan" comes from a Malay word, which means "a place where wild flowers grow.") Sol came to Saipan for the first time in 1989, as a tourist, and then returned a year later.

WALT: Tell me a little about your background.

almost everything except watermelon.

WALT: Who are your customers? SOL: When we first started, we sold fruits and vegetables to the hotels and restaurants and garment factories. We sold to the barracks for different companies like Sablan Construction. We delivered to supermarkets like Joeten, and Carmen Safeway, and other places like Coral Ocean Point. A lot of companies and factories have closed or moved away since that time, but I've been supplying a lot of the same customers with vegetables from the beginning up to the present time.

WALT: How many employees do you have?

Sol: Five right now. There is Erminda Ereno, who has worked for me for 13 years. Rolando Lamorena who has worked for me for nine years. Fe Areglado, 5 years. There's also Clarita Calimag and Cherry Morales, they are the ones who pre-pack the vegetables.

WALT: Are your children involved in the family business?

SOL: We have two daughters and three sons, all here on Saipan. Our oldest son, Andrew, is working at the Hyatt. My second son, Brian, works at Tony Roma's. Our youngest, Angel works at Mobil. I have two daughters, Lara, 13 and Natalie, 11. Right now, my two daughters are the ones assisting me in the business because one of my regular workers is in the Philippines. I'm training them how to grow and sell vegetables, how to communicate with customers, issue receipts, and make deliveries. [Note: Sol and Pedro had six children, but sadly, lost a daughter in an auto accident in 2005]

WALT: You've been doing this now for 15 years. Why?

SOL: I believe eating naturally and staying healthy is very im-

I also want to encourage local people to plant and grow and eat their own food. Especially now that we are in an economic crisis, everyone should learn how to plant food in their backyard. You



From left, Erminda Ereno, Sol Consuelo Cabrera-San Nicholas, and Rolando Lamorena (Fe Areglado not shown). Daughters Lara and Natalie

SOL: Well, I grew up in the Philippines. After I graduated from high school, I worked for nine years as a saleslady at C.O.D. Department store in Manila. Then I worked five years for Egypt Airlines as a secretary to the manager. While I was working for Egypt Airlines, I went off island to Cairo, Egypt for about three years, to go to school for airline training. When I left Egypt Airlines, I lived in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from 1983 to 1984. At that time, I worked at a fast food restaurant called "747 Hamburger!" Eventually, I went back to the Philippines, where I started my own business, buying and selling in different places.

WALT: How did you find out about Saipan? What attracted you to Saipan the first time, and why did you return to stay?

SOL: At that time, we had a relative who had worked at P.I.C. here on Saipan for many years. So we always knew about Saipan. I first came here as a tourist in 1989. What I liked about Saipan was that the life here was very simple. I observed the people, and thought that this was a very special island, very productive, and very beautiful. That's why I decided to stay.

WALT: When did you get into farming?

SOL: When I returned to Saipan, I was a contract worker at first. I met my husband Pedro San Nicholas, who was working at Duty Free at that time. [He just retired this year.] We got married in October 1990. We decided to open a commercial farm in April 1993. My husband's family owns land in As Lito. At the time, it was an undeveloped plot of land, about 36,000 square meters of land [approx 9 acres]. We planted, corn, sweet potato, tarot, different vegetables,

CONTACT INFO

Contact Sol at GreenLife Local Fresh Produce at (670) 288-1191, or (670) 256-1879.

don't need to purchase food all the time, at least they can grow for their personal use.

We also need to teach children how to grow and eat local vegetables. Many children don't even recognize or know the names of the vegetables. The parents should cook more local vegetables, and not always depend on meat, so the kids can learn how to appreciate

It's important for our children, because we don't have to use frozen produce, and vegetables from outside of Saipan, full of chemicals, when we can grow food here.

WALT: You are also part of the Federal Food Nutrition Service in the CNMI Public School System. What exactly do you

SOL: Yes, we are the ones who are in charge of the meal programs in every public and private school in the CNMI. I've been a Food Service Coordinator for four years. My job is to monitor all the food the vendors are serving and to make sure everything is in the proper amounts and provides the right nutrition.

WALT: One of the reasons I shop with you, Sol, is that when I first came to Saipan, I looked for vendors who were selling food grown without pesticides and other chemicals. In fact, more and

The Saipanpreneur Project

Creating economic success for the CNMI By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.



more new arrivals to the island often ask me where they can get 'organic" fruits and vegetables. Is the produce at Sabalu organic?

SOL: I cannot speak for all the vendors at the Sabalu Market, but I personally do not use chemical pesticides on my crops. In fact, for a long time, our farmers experimented with natural ways to protect the vegetables, and we developed our own organic pest spray made from hot peppers grown right here on Saipan! So our vegetables have no pesticides. And, you know, Walt, those chemicals are also very expensive!

WALT: Cool. That's a great trade secret that cuts expenses and is also good for the environment. Any other advice for potential Saipanpreneurs to make their businesses as successful as yours?

SOL: Well, from what I see, I believe I have a different way of dealing with the customers. You need to have good public relations. That means always putting on a good face to the public. You have to have consideration for your customers. Do special things for them. Making the customer happy is the reason you are in business, so it should always be the most important consideration, even more than profit.

I also sell produce at the Thursday Street Market, and I want to offer a wider variety of local fruits. So, I am encouraging anyone, if you have local fruits, any kind of fruits in your backyard, I can promote them at the Thursday Street Market. If they have fruits growing on their property, I can buy from them, but only fruits.

We always have tourists shopping at the Thursday market, and they love to eat the fruits we have on Saipan, especially things they've never tried before. All of our tourists, Japanese, Chinese, Koreans, Americans, want to know about the food they've never seen in their countries. I've noticed, for example, that the Russian customers love pineapples, and local mangos.

WALT: What's in the future for Greenlife?

SOL: Right now, we are planning to open a permanent booth on Beach Road. I am processing all the documents I need for the

WALT: Until that happens, where can people find you?

SOL: First, there's Tuesdays in Garapan /3pm – 9pm across from Kristo Rai Church], Thursdays at the Street Market [6pm to 9pm across from the Hyatt Hotel] and then, of course, Saturdays at Sabalu Market [from 6am to 11am; Tip: a source tells me that the early birds who come as early as 5am can find a better selection!]

Come and see for yourself

My own preference for eating naturally and locally drew me to Sabalu when I first arrived on Saipan. With vendors selling pastries, soups, breakfast and lunch, a playground a few yards away, and a great view of the ocean, you might also want to include a stop at Sabalu as part of your regular weekend get-together with family and friends! See you there! And say hi to Sol!

Note: At various times over the next several weeks, as part of the "Sabalu-preneur Series" I'll be profiling the farm owners, farmers, vendors, and board members of the Sabalu Market Farmers Association. In each column, you'll learn of the success stories, the challenges, the vision for the future, opportunities for growth and expansion, community impact and more things you never knew... about Saipan's Secret Sabalu!

Note: Fans and followers of the book, Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, supply is limited!

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destina-

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.passionprofit.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲86° ▼76°



▲87°

▼77°



▼77°

▲86°



▲86° ▼77°



▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia

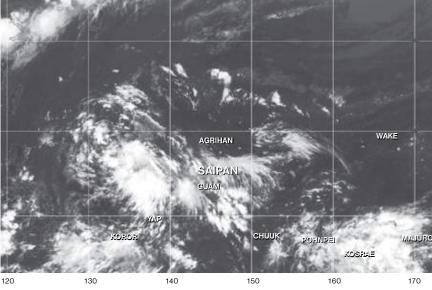
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Palau	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Rain	▲ 85 ▼ 74
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲ 54	▼39
Beijing	Fog	▲ 92	▼71
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 90	▼81
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	≜ 88	▼ 76
London	Showers	▲ 70	₹55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	≜ 83	▼ 62
Manila	Showers	≜ 86	▼77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 59	▼47
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲ 92	₹79
New York	Partly Sunny	≜ 82	▼ 66
Osaka	Rain	▲ 80	▼71
Paris	Showers	▲ 69	▼ 52
Pusan	Showers	≜ 85	▼72
Rome	Sunny	▲ 84	▼ 63
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 72	▼51
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲ 71	₹55
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲ 86	▼71
Tokyo	Rain	▲ 82	▼ 73
Washington, D	C Partly Sunny	\$ 86	▼ 64

Tides								
Saipan Harbor								
06:03AM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet						
10:56AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet						
05:45PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet						

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 12N130E to EQ153E. Strong low-level easterly convergence along and north of the trough axis coupled with favorable winds aloft is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 50 miles of a line from 21N130E to 18N133E within 200 miles of the line continuing to 14N138E and within 150 miles of the line continuing to end at 10N150E. These showers and thunderstorms are north of Yap and Palau and west south and southeast of the Marianas. Converging low-level westerlies south of the monsoon trough axis are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest south and southeast of Yap between 1N and 9N from west of 130E to 139E and within 50 miles of a line from 6N140E to 4N143E. These showers include Palau. A surface trough runs from EQ161E to 9N165E. This trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 10N from 159E to 170E. These showers and thunderstorms are east of Pohnpei and include Kosrae and Kwajelein

1	ides		Sunrise/Sunset					
Saipan Harbor	200		Today	5:52AM	6:62 PM			
06:03AM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet	Thursday	5:53AM	6:52 PM			
10:56AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet	Friday	5:53AM	6:52 PM			
05:45PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	Saturday	5:53AM	6:52 PM			
		100	Sunday	5:54AM	6:52 PM			

Moonrise/Moonset								
Today	7:33PM	6:17AM						
Thursday	8:13PM	6:17AM						
Friday	8:51PM	7:57AM						
Saturday	9:26PM	8:45AM						
Sunday	10:01PM	9:32AM						

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PICTURES ■ ISLAND SNAPSHOTS

- Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones,
- accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community. ■ SAMU'T SARI
- Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc. ■ TRÁVELOGUE
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organiza tions, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- tos should be original and not copyrighted. Contrib utors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures. \blacksquare Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of
- 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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the name of contact person, and a phone number. ■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contrib

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FRE 109*

FRE 111*

9:10am 9:20am Daily

10:45am 10:55am Daily

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 3, 2009

	PAR			DOTA (RIVAL	
SAIPAN				ROTA (I			
C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7	C09598	*****	3:50am	5, 6
				C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6
ROTA (I	ROP)-G	UAM		GUAM-	ROTA ((ROP)	
C09597	12:50pm 1	1:20pm	1, 7	C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
	,	·		C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6
SAIPAN	-GUAM	1		GUAM-	SAIPA	N	
C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily	C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09313	8:30am 9	9:20am	Daily	C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09597	11:50am 1	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09601	12:30pm 1	,	4, 5	C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
C09603	3:30pm 4		Daily	C09312		1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09605	6:30pm		Daily	C09602	,	2:50pm	
							1, 4, 5, 7
C09599	9:30pm 1	IU:ZUPM	Daily	C09604		5:50pm	Daily
				C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN	-NARI	TA (NI	RT)	NARITA	(NRT)-SAIP	AN
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily	NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO	NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily	NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN	-OSAK	A (KI	K)	OSAKA	(KIX)	-SAIPA	N
0Z119	4:00am		1, 4, 6	0Z120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 7
SAIPAN	-NAGO	YA (N	(GO)	NAGOY	A (NG	D)-SAII	PAN
NW78	9:00am		Daily	NW77	•	1:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN	-BUSA	N (PU	IS)	BUSAN	(PUS)	-SAIP/	۱N
0Z608	3:20am (6:50am	1, 5	0Z607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN	-SEOU	L (ICN	l)	SEOUL	(ICN)-	SAIPA	N
0Z604	2:20am	6:00am	1	0Z605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
07604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z120		•	3, 5, 7 via K
0Z119	4:00am 1		1, 4, 6 via KIX	0Z603	,	1:10am+1	7
02606	3:30pm		2, 4, 6, 7	0Z603		1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
SAIPAN	I-GIIAN	IG7H0	U (CAN)	GUANG	7HOII	(CAN)	-SAIPAR
CZ3008	3:30am		2, 6	CZ3007		2:40am+1	
CAIDAN							
SAIPAN				MANIL	-		
0Z604/701	2:20am 1		1 via ICN	C0894/9604		5:50pm	6 via GUM
0Z604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z702/603	,	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09317/893	4:30am (8:50am	via ICN 7 via GUM	0Z702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm		Daily via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:00nm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
CO9599/PR111			1, 2, 4, 6, 7		·		via GUM
			via GUM	C0934/9596		7:50am+1	Daily via Gl
				0Z704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
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02604/721	2:50am	ii. iouiii	via ICN	0Z722/603	1·15nm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	ency		Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	iency
Guam-R FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily		FRE 113 FRE 115	11:40am 1:00pm	11:50am 1:10pm	Daily Daily
Rota-Sa FRE 100 Saipan-I	7:50am	8:20am	Daily		FRE 117 FRE 119 FRE 121	2:30pm 4:00pm 4:40pm	2:40pm 4:10pm 4:50pm	Daily Daily Daily
FRE 200 Rota-Gu	9:00am am	9:30am	Daily		FRE 123 * FRE 125 *	5:40pm 6:00pm	5:50pm 6:10pm	Daily Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily Guam-Rota					Tinian-Sa flights to			ng
FRE 300 Rota-Sai	4:00pm ipan	4:30pm	Daily		FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 Saipan-l	4:50pm Rota	5:25pm	Daily		FRE 104 FRE 106**	7:50am 8:20am	8:00am 8:30am	Daily Daily
FRE 400 Rota-Gu	6:00pm uam	6:30pm	Daily		FRE 108** FRE 110	9:00am 10:00am	9:10am 10:10am	Daily Daily
FRE 400 Saipan-1	6:45pm Finian	7:15pm	Daily		FRE 112 FRE 114	11:05am 12:00pm	11:15am	Daily Daily
FRE 101 FRE 103 FRE 105 FRE 107	6:45am 7:30am 8:00am 8:40am	6:55am 7:40am 8:10am 8:50am	Daily Daily Daily Daily		FRE 116 FRE 118 FRE 120** FRE 122**	1:30pm 2:50pm 4:20pm 5:00pm	1:40pm 3:00pm 4:30pm 5:10pm	Daily Daily Daily Daily

FRE 124

FRE 126

Daily

Daily

6:05pm 6:15pm

6:20pm 6:30pm

NMI CRIME **STOPPERS**

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone ■ *11 on any PTI cellular phone

■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2009 **13**

Business

Appeals loom in GM plan to sell assets

representing plaintiffs in car accidents said Monday they would oppose General Motors' attempt to quickly exit bankruptcy protection, arguing that hundreds of victims could be hurt by the government-led plan.

U.S. Judge Robert Gerber approved a crucial step of the plan late Sunday, allowing the troubled automaker to sell its assets to a new company and saying the deal was in the best interest of both the automaker and its creditors, who would get nothing if the automaker was forced to liquidate.

The Detroit car maker's Chapter 11 filing on June 1 was the fourth-largest in U.S. history. (Under Chapter 11 reorganization, a company can stay in operation under court protection while it sheds debts and unprofitable assets).

General Motors and the Monday, June 1, 2009.



In this June 1, 2009 file photo employees walk past signs hanging inside the General Motors, Global Headquarters in Detroit, Michigan,

Obama administration praised the judge's decision but opponents readied an appeal to the U.S. District Court in New York. A Chicago law firm representing people who have sued GM in several auto accident cases said they objected to parts of the plan that would free the "new GM" from liability for people injured by a defective GM product before June 1.

Steve Jakubowski, who filed the appeal notice for the accident litigants, said his appeal would assert that the bankruptcy judge overstepped his authority by preventing victims from pursuing litigation under their state product liability laws.

He estimated that about 1,000 lawsuits could be pending with potential damages in the range of hundreds of millions of dollars.

"It affects ... virtually every

he said. The deadline to appeal the case to the District Court is noon Thursday, after which point Gerber's order takes effect and the sale is free to close.

Steve Rattner, the head of the Obama administration's auto task force, said the government was "confident that (Gerber's) decision will stand and the sale of GM's assets to new GM will proceed expeditiously."

The bankruptcy judge's ruling followed a three-day hearing that wrapped up Thursday. GM and government officials had urged a quick approval of the sale, saying it was needed to keep the automaker from selling itself off piece by piece. The Treasury Department, which is expected to provide about \$50 billion in aid to the automaker. has vowed to cut off funding to GM if the sale doesn't go through by July 10.

analysis: Economic stress up in much of nation

By JEANNINE AVERSA and MIKE SCHNEIDER

California, Michigan and South Carolina suffered the most financial pain in May as unemployment, home foreclosures and bankruptcies rose, according to The Associated Press' monthly analysis of economic stress in more than 3,100 U.S. counties.

The latest results of the AP's Economic Stress Index show the worst financial crisis since the 1930s causing lingering damage even as other signs suggest the recession is winding down.

The average county's Stress a county is considered stressed score, fueled by worsening unemployment, foreclosures and bankruptcies, rose to 10 in May, from 9.7 in April.

In May 2008, the average Stress score was 6.2. The pain was lower then because the economy was still expanding. In fact, the second quarter of 2008 was the last time the economy grew.

The AP calculates a score from 1 to 100 based on each county's unemployment, foreclosure and bankruptcy rates. The higher the score, the higher the economic stress.

Under a rough rule of thumb,

when its score zooms past 11. In May, 36 percent of the counties scored 11 or higher, up from 34 percent in April. But the latest reading was slightly better than February and March, when nearly 40 percent of counties were at or above that threshold.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and many other economists predict the recession will end later this year. Even if it does, unemployment, foreclosures and bankruptcies are likely to keep climbing and cause further harm in many communities, economists predicted.

Any reading below 50 indicates the services sector is shrinking, and June marked the ninth straight month of contraction. Still, it was the best showing since September when the index was at 50.

Service industries such as retailing, financial services, transportation and health care make up about 70 percent of the counservices index rose to 47 in June try's economic activity. Any from 44 in May. Economists turnaround in the sector requires "It's going to take a long polled by Thomson Reuters had improved consumer spending.

US, Britain join Austria in Madoff probes

VIENNA (AP)—U.S. and British investigators have joined Austrian prosecutors in examining possible ties between a Vienna fund manager and disgraced financier Bernard Madoff, whose multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme wiped out thousands of investors and charities

cial said Monday. Gerhard Jarosch, spokesman for the Vienna public prosecutor's office, told The Associated Press his office is aiding the U.S. Justice Department

and Britain's Serious Fraud Office in separate investigations of Bank Medici AG and its chairwoman, Sonja Kohn.

Both Kohn and Medici also have been the focus of a fraud investigation in Austria since February, Jarosch said, stressing that Kohn has not been charged with any criminal wrongdoing.

"I can confirm that we are assisting the U.S. and British authorities in their investigations of Mrs. Kohn in connection with the Madoff case," he told AP. Jarosch declined to elaborate or say whether Kohn has been tigation was ongoing.

questioned by investigators from either country.

Kohn, 60, has an unlisted phone number and could not be reached for comment Monday. Her attorney, Andreas Theiss, said she was not giving media interviews—but he insisted she had no personal dealings with

Madoff.

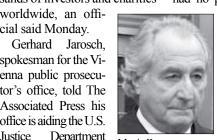
'It's just not true." Theiss told AP.

"There are some investors who lost money. Even the Kohn family lost a lot of money, full stop," he said. "That wasn't caused by Ms. Kohn.

That was caused by Madoff."

"Ms. Kohn is saying she never, ever got money from Mr. Madoff ... and there's no evidence of any payments like that," Theiss added.

Prosecutors suspect that Madoff paid Kohn commissions in exchange for allegedly funneling billions of dollars in European investments to Madoff, according to a person with knowledge of U.S. involvement in the case. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the inves-



Madoff

Service sector shrinks less than expected in June

NEW YORK (AP)—The U.S. services economy-from retailers and restaurants to real estate brokers-contracted less than expected in June in its best showing since before the financial crisis struck last fall, according to a private trade group's gauge.

But with rising unemployment and constrained credit driving consumers to spend less and save more, one analyst says a sustained economic recovery likely is years, not months, away.

time before the economy is really back up to its potential," said Capital Economics analyst Paul Ashworth.

While the U.S. should see growth in the next few months, he said it could be 2011 or 2012 before the economy reaches a rate of activity that helps boost wages, he said.

The Institute for Supply Management on Monday said that its

expected a June reading of 45.5.

The announcement also nearly coincides with the 50th anniversary of the momentous "Kitchen Debate" between then-Vice President Richard Nixon and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, who clashed over communism and capitalism and shared several rounds of Pepsi-Cola on July 24, 1959.

tumbled to a five-week low Monday on growing evidence of an extended recession that could sap energy demand for some time. Benchmark crude for August delivery fell \$2.68 to settle at \$64.05 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It was the fourth straight day of declines on Nymex and since hitting a midday high for the year last Tuesday. Crude prices have fallen nearly 13 percent since then. Natural gas prices plunged as well.

JAKARTA HONG KONG 18,099.80 2,066.999 TOKYO K. LUMPUR 1,065.83 SINGAPORE BANGKOK SEOUL LEADING **INDICATORS** DOW 8,324.87 44.13 NASDAQ 1.787.40 9.12 S&P 898.72 2.30 **MONEY MARKET** Australian Dollar 1.2546 **British Pound** 0.6142 1.1600 Canadian Dollar 6.8346 Chinese Renminbi 0.7156 Euro Indian Rupee 48.3450 Indonesian Rupiah 10,272.5000 Japanese Yen 95.3600 Malaysian Ringgit 3.5400 **New Zealand Dollar** 1.5724 Philippine Peso 48.1870 Singapore Dollar 1.4554 South Korean Won 1,268.7000 **Swiss Franc** 1.0851 Taiwan Dollar 32.9730 Thailand Baht 34.1200 In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA

3,771,000

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stocks end mixed: Oil slide hits energy shares

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors are fearing they may have bet too soon on an economic comeback. Stocks ended mostly lower Monday as drops in prices for oil and other commodities had investors worrying again that demand for basic materials may remain slack. The major market indexes closed mixed but off of their lows for the day. The

drop in oil to a five-week low pushed energy and commodities stocks lower and sent investors into safe-haven parts of the market, like consumer goods producers. Occidental Petroleum slid 2.5 percent while Procter & Gamble Co., which makes Tide and Crest, rose 2 percent.

PepsiCo, Pepsi **Bottling invest \$1B** more in Russia

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Soft

drink and snack maker Pepsi-Co Inc. announced plans Monday to boost its investment in Russia, continuing a trend of consumer companies seeking growth in emerging markets as their U.S. sales soften. With its largest bottler, Pepsi Bottling Group Inc., PepsiCo plans to invest another \$1 billion in Russia over three years, taking the partnership's Russia stake above \$4 billion just as President Barack Obama opens his first official visit to Moscow.

Crude tumbles on doubts about economic rebound **NEW YORK** (AP)—Oil prices

Nation

Robert McNamara, Vietnam War architect, dies at 93

WASHINGTON (AP)—Robert S. McNamara, the brainy Pentagon chief who directed the escalation of the Vietnam War despite private doubts the war was winnable or worth fighting, died Monday at 93.

McNamara revealed his misgivings three decades after the American defeat that some called "McNamara's war."

"We of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations acted according to what we thought were the principles and traditions of our country. But we were wrong. We were terribly wrong," McNamara told The Associated Press in 1995, the year his best-selling memoir appeared.

McNamara died at 5:30 a.m. at his home, his wife Diana told the AP. She said he had been in failing health for some time.

Closely identified with the war's early years, McNamara was a forceful public optimist. He predicted that American intervention would enable the South Viet-



In this Oct. 12,1961, photo released by the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library in Boston, Secretary of Defense Robert S.McNamara views military demonstrations at Ft. Bragg, N.C.

namese, despite internal feuds, to stand by themselves "by the end of 1965." The war ground on until 1975, with more than 58,000 U.S. deaths.

Lawyerly and a student of statistical analysis, McNamara was recruited to run the Pentagon by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 from the presidency of the Ford Motor Co.—where he and a group of colleagues had been known as the "whiz kids."

He stayed in the defense post for seven years, longer than anyone else since the job's creation in 1947. He left on the verge of a nervous breakdown and became president of the World Bank. In the new post, he threw himself into the intricacies of international development and argued that improving lives was a more promising path to peace than building up arms and armies.

McNamara was a distinctive figure, with frameless glasses and slicked-back hair. Anti-war critics ridiculed him as an out-of-touch technocrat and made much of the fact that his middle name was "Strange." Simon and Garfunkel worked his name into a ditty about an overbearing government, and he once had to flee an appearance at Harvard through underground utility tunnels.

By the end of his Pentagon tenure, McNamara had come to doubt the value of widespread U.S. bombing, and he was fighting with his generals. President Lyndon Johnson lost faith or patience in him; McNamara would later write that he didn't know if he quit or was fired.

In the Kennedy administration, McNamara was a key figure in both the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of April 1961 and the Cuban missile crisis 18 months later. The missile episode was the closest the world came to a nuclear confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States, and historians have pointed to Mc-Namara's role in steering internal debate away from a U.S. airstrike.

AP: New GI benefits vary widely by state amount veterans can receive. \$20,000 a semester from the govern-

By JUSTIN POPE AP EDUCATION WRITER

When the new GI Bill kicks in Aug. 1, the government's best-known education program for veterans will get the biggest boost since its World War II-era creation. But the benefit is hardly the "Government Issue," one-size-fits-all standard the name implies.

In fact, depending on where service members and veterans decide to attend college, they could receive a full ride, or very little.

An Associated Press review of state-by-state benefits under the new

For example: ■ Veterans attending New Hampshire colleges like Dartmouth might get \$25,000 from the government each year, and in Dartmouth's case essentially a free ride, thanks to an additional grant from the Ivy League school. But in neighboring Massachusetts, it is a different story. At that state's numerous private schools-many just as expensive as Dartmouth—the government's baseline tuition benefit is only about

■ Veterans who choose a private school in Texas could get close to

\$2,200 a year.

ment for a typical course load. Those picking schools in California will get nothing for tuition.

The explanation stems from the formula the government created, as well as a much-criticized decision by the Department of Veterans Affairs on how to implement the law.

The new GI Bill covers full in-state undergraduate tuition and fees at any public college. That's far more generous than the old GI Bill, which provides a monthly stipend that is the same from state to state.

But Congress also wanted to help veterans attend often pricier private

schools. So the new bill offers them an amount equal to the tuition at the most expensive public college in the same state.

That penalizes veterans going to private colleges in states that have kept their public university tuition low.

As a result, the new GI Bill is a great deal for such vets in states like New Hampshire, New York and Texas; a pretty good one in states like Ohio; and hardly any deal at all in Massachusetts and especially California, where the state constitution prohibits public universities from charging tuition. Instead, California's public universities typically charge "fees" of several thousand dollars per year.

Critics argue the Department of Veterans Affairs misinterpreted the law and should have combined tuition and fees in coming up with reimbursement levels. That would have put the total California benefit at around \$13,000 per year.

bill shows huge discrepancies in the

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)— Gov. Sarah Palin spent Monday fishing with her family and away from the spotlight as her lawyer insisted that legal troubles did not drive her to announce her stunning resignation over the holiday weekend.

Palin's early departure has fueled rumors that some legal entanglement not yet known to the public may have compelled her to resign. Sixteen ethics complaints have been filed against Palin in the last year, most of which have been dismissed as baseless.

But Palin's lawyer, Thomas Van Flein, said the Republican governor

Palin's lawyer: No legal troubles driving her out

has no legal problems whatsoever. In an interview with The Associated Press, he said that Palin believes that the hostile political climate and legal bills have become too much of a distraction for the state.

and former vice presidential candidate

"She is leaving now because I think she believes that she has become the issue, rightly or wrongly, with all these ethics complaints and with the issues involving the Legislature, the combativeness they've been demonstrating toward her since she returned from the campaign," Van Flein said of Palin, still widely believed to be a possible presidential candidate in 2012.

"I think she believes it's in the best interest of the state to progress forward, for her to move on to other issues."

Palin has become a lightning rod for partisan politics in Alaska since her return from the 2008 presidential campaign after John McCain selected her as his running mate. She has racked up an estimated \$500,000 in legal bills defending the flurry of ethics complaints, including one filed Monday that alleges she is violating ethics law by taking per diem payments when she stays in her Wasilla home instead of the governor's mansion in Juneau.

ACROSS THE NATION

Woman allegedly pranks her grandma 45 times in day

CAMBRIDGE, Minn. (AP)—A 21year-old woman faces felony charges after allegedly prank-calling her 69year-old grandmother 45 times in one day, threatening to kill her. The woman faces five felony counts including harassment. A criminal complaint said she told police she was "bored" and "wanted to have some fun." The woman and a 20-year-old friend, also facing charges, allegedly called the older woman on Feb. 5 and said "I'm gonna kill you," "You're going to die" and "I'm watching you." Police officers answered some calls for the grandmother and heard a female caller make threats. The criminal complaint said the suspect told investigators she wanted to scare her grandmother but didn't want her dead. She said she knew it was wrong but not illegal.

Tenn. laborers buried in concrete, 1 dead

LENOIR CITY, Tenn. (AP)—Authorities say one of two workers buried in concrete at a Tennessee construction site has died and the other has been taken to a hospital in critical condition. Police Lt. Mike Tinnel tells The Knoxville News Sentinel that a form for a 30-foot wall collapsed during a concrete pour Monday afternoon at the Lenoir City Utilities Board sewage treatment plant. Deputy Fire Chief Tony Brock says rescue crews used rappelling equipment and baskets to pull the workers from the concrete. Tinnel says one of the workers later died. Their names aren't being released until families are notified.

WTC developer threatens arbitration at ground zero

NEW YORK (AP)—The private developer of the World Trade Center site threatened Monday to go to an arbitrator unless he and the site's owner quickly settle a monthslong impasse over how much each should pay to build office towers at ground zero. Larry Silverstein, who wants to rebuild three office towers at the site of the Sept. 11 attacks, gave the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey two weeks' notice before he would go to an arbitrator to resolve issues with his lease. Terms of the 2006 lease require Silverstein and the Port Authority to go to arbitration before going to court.

SC GOP censures Gov. Sanford over absence, affair

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Fellow Republicans have censured South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford after he left the state last month on a secret trip to Argentina to meet his mistress. The state GOP met for more than three hours by phone Monday before 22 members of the executive committee voted to formally reprimand Sanford. Ten others voted to ask him to resign, while nine voted to support him. In a statement, Sanford says he appreciates the party's position and will continue to work to earn back its trust. Sanford might have survived a state probe last week into his travel, but plenty of his fellow Republicans say they are still hearing from unhappy constituents.

Slain SC serial killer had long rap sheet

GAFFNEY, S.C. (AP)—The serial killer who terrorized a South Carolina community by shooting five people to death before police killed him Monday was a career criminal paroled just two months ago, authorities said.

Patrick Burris, 41, was shot to death by officers investigating a burglary complaint at a home in Gastonia, N.C., 30 miles from where the killing spree started June 27. Ballistics tests showed his gun matched the one used to kill residents in and around Gaffney over six days last week, said State Law Enforcement Division Chief Reggie Lloyd.

Investigators did not have an address

for Burris. While evidence left no doubt he was the killer, they still had no idea why he did it.

"He was unpredictable. He was scary. He was weird," said SLED Deputy Director Neil Dolan.

Burris had a long rap sheet filled with convictions for larceny, forgery and breaking and entering in states across the Southeast, including Florida, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland. He had been paroled from a North Carolina prison in April after serving nearly eight years for felony breaking and entering and larceny.

"Look at this," Lloyd said, waving a stapled copy of Burris' criminal record.

"This is like 25 pages. At some point the criminal justice system is going to need to explain why this suspect was out on the street."

Gaffney farmer Sam Howell, 61, was among dozens of people from Cherokee County who came to the news conference where authorities identified Burris.

"My prayers were answered. He got what he deserved," Howell said. "He scared the hell out of everyone. I guess we can feel better but we've lost some of our innocence."

The mystery ended in Gastonia early Monday after Mike and Terry Valentine called police to report a suspicious sport utility vehicle in their neighborhood.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2009 15

Asia

Fresh protest erupts in China's Xinjiang region



An Uighur woman protests near paramilitary police when journalists visited the area in Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Tuesday, July 7, 2009.

URUMQI, China (AP)—Ethnic Uighurs scuffled with armed police Tuesday in a fresh protest in the western Chinese region of Xinjiang, where at least 156 people have been killed and more than 1,400 people arrested in the worst ethnic violence there in decades.

Most of the group of about 200 Uighurs were women protesting the arrests of their husbands in the massive crackdown on members of the Muslim minority by Chinese authorities since the violence was sparked Sunday in the Xinjiang provincial capital.

The incident played out in front of reporters who were being taken around Urumqi to see the aftermath of Sunday's riots, when hundreds of vehicles and shops were attacked.

The women, wearing ornate flowered headscarves, blocked a road. Some screamed that their husbands and children had been arrested. Riot police were at one end of the road and paramilitary police were at the other.

One woman said her husband was taken away and she would rather die than live without him.

As they marched down the street, paramilitary police in green camouflage fatigues with sticks marched toward them and pushed the crowd back. A woman fell. The brief scuffle ended when the police retreated. Police in black uniforms with assault rifles and tear gas guns took up positions on the other side of the crowd.

The women, however, stayed in the street, pumping their fists in the air and wailing. Meanwhile, police tried to weed the men out of the crowd, herding them down a side street. Two boys ran out

Exiled Uighur leader once a Chinese success story

WASHINGTON (AP)—Not long ago, Rebiya Kadeer was considered a symbol of success in modern China: a woman, a Muslim and a millionaire entrepreneur who also held a prestigious post with the Communist government.

Now she is an exile living in the suburbs of Virginia, accused of fomenting riots and rebellion half a world away that have left 156 people dead.

"While I was in China, I tried to work within the system to seek freedom for the Uighur people," Kadeer said through an interpreter. "I did my best, but I failed."

Kadeer called the news conference at the National Press Club to formally refute accusations by the Chinese government that she orchestrated riots between ethnic Uighurs, a Muslim minority group in China of which she is a member, and ethnic Han Chinese.

Evidence against her, according to state media, included a police record-

of a side alley, and a policeman barked at them, "Go home" and grabbed one around the neck, pushing him.

The 90-minute protest ended when the women walked back into a market area without any resistance.

Police had also started trying to shepherd the journalists away.

herd the journalists away.

The new protest came after state media said Tuesday that police had ar-

ing of a call she allegedly made in which she said "Something will happen in Urumqi," a city in the Xinjiang province of China in which many Uighurs live.

Kadeer explained at the news conference that she learned from Web sites of protests planned by Uighurs, and she called her brother to urge him and other family members to stay away. Kadeer said her family is frequently singled out for persecution—two sons remain imprisoned—and she feared for her family's safety if they were caught up in the protest.

Kadeer is now president of the World Uyghur Congress and Uyghur American Association. She spent six years in a Chinese prison before being released and beginning life in the U.S. in 2005 as an exile. She was granted political asylum and now lives in Fairfax, Va., just outside the nation's capital, according to court documents.

rested 1,434 suspects for their roles in Sunday's riot.

The violence does not bode well for China's efforts to mollify long-simmering ethnic tensions between the minority Uighur people, largely Muslim, and the ethnic Han Chinese in Xinjiang—a sprawling region three times the size of Texas that shares borders with Pakistan, Afghanistan and other Central Asian countries.

Myanmar junta stage-manages visit by UN chief

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)— Myanmar's ruling junta wanted Ban Ki-moon to go into a grandiose drug museum through the back door to prevent the U.N. secretary-general from making a rock-star entrance.

Ban eventually did walk through the front door—a small victory after he had lost far bigger battles, notably a hoped-for meeting with jailed democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

After a two-day visit in which the generals tried to stage-manage the world's top diplomat at every step, Ban left the country with few prospects of even slightly loosening the iron grip on power held by military regime and its junta chief, Senior Gen. Than Shwe.

If people saw Ban acting independently in Myanmar "that would cause

Than Shwe to lose face," said Donald Seekins, a Myanmar expert at Japan's Meio University. "So they want to manipulate him."

By snubbing Ban, the country's military rulers lost an opportunity to improve its standing among many of the world's nations that view the struggling country with rich reserves of gas and minerals as a pariah.

Inside Myanmar, Suu Kyi's opposition party said Than Shwe showed he is unwilling to permit real change ahead of the 2010 elections, which would be the first in two decades.

Ban had asked to make his closing speech to diplomats and humanitarian groups Saturday at a hotel, but the junta refused and forced him to instead speak at the government's Drug Elimination Museum.

Ban's staff didn't want his presence there—where a wax figure depicts a military intelligence chief chopping opium poppies, which Myanmar views as a scourge introduced by colonialists—to appear like another prop furthering the government's agenda

"They fought us over every last detail," said a U.N. official who took part in organizing the trip, speaking anonymously and out of protocol because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Ban—whose mild-mannered facade belies a toughness and occasional temper—would have preferred a tete-a-tete with Than Shwe to having note-taking aides around, an example of his belief in his ability to sway recalcitrant world leaders if only he can get them alone in a room.

SKorea says suspect North Korean ship likely home

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A North Korean ship tracked by the U.S. Navy because it was suspected of carrying illicit cargo has likely arrived back home after reversing course without delivering its load, a South Korean official said Tuesday.

A U.S. admiral said the reversal demonstrates the success of U.N. sanctions aimed at punishing the communist nation for its May 25 nuclear test and curbing any of its efforts to export military technology.

The Kang Nam I is believed to have entered the port of Nampo on North Korea's western coast late Monday, said a South Korean Defense Ministry official, who spoke of condition of anonymity, citing department policy. He said South Korea was trying to obtain confirmation of the vessel's return.

The U.S. Navy tracked the cargo vessel after it left port last month. The ship, which was believed destined for Myanmar, suddenly turned back on June 28.

The Kang Nam 1, which has drawn attention in the past for suspected proliferation activities, was the first ship to be monitored under a U.N. Security Council resolution passed last month to punish North Korea after its May 25 nuclear test.

It bans North Korea from selling all arms and weapons-related material, and allows other countries to request boarding and inspection of suspected ships, though the vessels do not have to give permission.

North Korea has said it would consider interception of its ships a declaration of war. It did not comment Monday or Tuesday on the Kang Nam 1.

ACROSS THE NATION

2 bomb blasts rock southern Philippines; 2 dead

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Two bombs have exploded in the southern Philippines, killing at least two people and wounding dozens in one town and wounding at least 11 in another. Military spokesman Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner says Tuesday's blasts appear to be the work of two different Muslim rebel groups. They say a motorcycle bomb exploded on a southern Philippine

island where al-Qaida-linked militants are active, killing at least two people and wounding two dozens. Hours later, a car bomb in another town wounded at least 11, including nine civilians and two soldiers. No group has claimed responsibility for the blasts, but the military is blaming the Abu Sayyaf for the motorcycle bomb.

Philippine inflation drops to lowest in 22 years

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The

Philippines' inflation rate dropped to 1.5 percent in June—the lowest in 22 years—as prices of commodities, particularly fuel and utilities, continued to fall, the government said Tuesday. The figure brought the first-half inflation rate to 5 percent. The June rate, down from 3.3 percent in May, was the lowest since April 1987, when inflation was 1 percent, the National Statistics Office said in a statement. A year ago, in June 2008, the country posted an 11.4 percent inflation rate. Central bank Governor Amando

Tetangco said inflation fell within the bank's forecast of 1.2 percent to 2.1 percent for June, giving the monetary authorities room to further ease borrowing costs. "Current assessments show risks to inflation remain tilted towards the downside," Tetangco said. "Nevertheless, we are mindful of global and domestic financial and real sector developments, particularly the actions of central banks in the major economies to unwind prior liquidity and credit easing measures."

NATO: Afghan chopper crash kills 3 troops

KABUL (AP)—A spokesman for NATO says two Canadian troops and a Briton were killed in a helicopter crash in southern Afghanistan. Lt. Cmdr. Chris Hall says the helicopter went down Monday in the southern province of Zabul. An additional seven American troops were killed on Monday, making it one of the deadliest for foreign troops in Afghanistan since the ouster of the Taliban in 2001. Hall says the crash was not caused by insurgent fire.

World

Obama, Medvedev agree to deal to cut nuke weapons

MOSCOW (AP)—Presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev confidently committed to a year-end deal to slash nuclear stockpiles by about a third on Monday, but the U.S. leader failed to crack stubborn Kremlin objections to America's missile defense plans—a major stumbling block to such an agreement.

Both men renewed pledges to pull U.S.-Russian relations out of the dismal state into which they had descended during the eight years of the Bush administration. And to that end, they signed a series of agreements and joint statements designed to enliven and quicken contacts on a broad range of issues-including cooperation on Afghanistan, a key Obama foreign policy objective.

Obama said the leaders both felt relations had "suffered from a sense of drift. President Medvedev and I are committed to leaving behind the suspicion and rivalry of the past."

His host expressed similar good will.

"This is the first but very important step in improving full-scale cooperation between our two countries, which would go to the benefit of both states,"



President Barack Obama, left, shakes hands with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin during a meeting at Novo Ogaryovo, Tuesday, July 7, 2009, in Moscow.

the Russian leader said. But he injected a note of caution, saying discussions so far "cannot remove the burden of all the problems."

There was no statement of Russian readiness to help the United States persuade Iran to abandon its nuclear ambitions, even though Obama's top Russia adviser, Michael McFaul, told reporters in a post-meeting briefing that Iran dominated the two leaders' private meeting that opened the summit. Talks continued in an expanded session that included 12 advisers for each president.

For all the upbeat public statements, a pall of disagreement on missile defense and NATO expansion lingered over the glittering Kremlin hall where Obama and Medvedev answered reporters' questions. Obama said the meetings had been "frank," diplomatic speak for difficult.

Obama sits down on Tuesday with Medvedev's patron and predecessor as president, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, the target of a verbal poke from the U.S. president last Friday. In a pre-summit interview with The Associated Press, Obama said Putin still

had one foot in the old, Cold War way of doing things.

While Medvedev insisted on Monday that a replacement to the keystone START I nuclear arms reduction treaty, which expires Dec. 5, must be linked to Russian concerns about the U.S. missile defense program in Eastern Europe, it remained unclear if the Kremlin was prepared to scuttle the negotiations over that issue.

Gary Samore, Obama's chief adviser on weapons of mass destruction and arms control, told reporters he did not believe the Russians were prepared to walk away.

"I think at the end of the day—because our missile defense does not actually pose a threat to Russia's strategic forces—I think they'll be prepared to go ahead without trying to extract a price on missile defense."

And McFaul said it had been made "crystal clear" from the beginning that negotiations about a START replacement would not include any missile defense issues.

Washington insists the defense program is designed only to protect European allies from missile attack by Iran.

Zelaya supporters escalate their fight in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)— Supporters of ousted President Manuel Zelaya vowed Monday to widen protests

and block trade nationwide as the deposed leader headed to Washington for a meeting with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Thousands of Zelaya supporters have demonstrated since his overthrow eight days ago, including 2,000 who rallied peacefully Mon-

day near the presidential palace. Anger increased following the death of a teenager shot by soldiers Sunday as a crowd tried to break through an airport fence where a plane carrying Zelava was prevented from landing.

"We're going to change strategies," said organizer Rafael Alegria, 57. "We cannot live under the current state."

Alegria said they planned to take their fight nationwide by blocking major highways and border crossings in an effort to impede trucks carrying fuel and merchandise.

Clinton was to meet Tuesday with Zelaya as the Obama administration weighs responses to his ouster. The talks would be the administration's highest-level contact with Zelaya since his removal from office.

"We're very focused on the need for a dialogue to restore him back (to office) and restore the democratic order," State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said.

On Monday, the family of a slain teenager-identified as Isis Obed Murillo Mencia, 19, from Zelaya's home state of Olancho-was seen driving past the airport with his body in a coffin in the back of a pickup truck, sobbing, yelling and shaking their fists at riot police and soldiers.

Israeli foreign minister: I'm not being sidelined

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's ultranationalist foreign minister said Monday that he voluntarily removed himself from crucial talks with the United States because he lives in a West Bank settlement, denying speculation that he's being sidelined by an image-conscious government troubled by growing friction with the Obama administration.

The talks are meant to bridge the gap between Washington, which demands a total West Bank settlement freeze, and Israel, which wants some construction to continue.

Avigdor Lieberman told reporters he stepped aside because his status as a settler could be perceived as a "clear conflict of interest." Defense Minister Ehud Barak of the dovish Labor Party has been dispatched to the talks instead.

"I wouldn't want to be accused afterward of purposely derailing important political negotiations" and jeopardizing relations with the United States, Lieberman said.

"I am involved in the peace process but I think in this specific case at this stage it is much much better that Ba- would take place Tuesday.

rak take responsibility for these talks," he told reporters.

Barak was meeting in London on Monday with U.S. Mideast envoy George Mitchell. He and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu say construction must go on to accommodate growing settler families in the West Bank—land the Palestinians seek as part of a future state. Nearly 500,000 Israelis live in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war and claimed by the Palestinians.

The European Commission, in an unusually blunt statement, said before the meeting that Israel's settlement policy in the West Bank stifles the Palestinian economy, increasing Palestinian dependence on foreign aid and ultimately forcing European taxpayers to bear much of the cost.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry said the EU ambassador to Israel was called in for explanations, a form of protest. The Israeli statement said the meeting between Barak and Mitchell

Iran's opposition leader makes public appearance

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iranian opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi made his first public appearance in a week Monday, vowing to continue his campaign against a government that he said lacks legitimacy. But his comments suggested he is abandoning massive street protests after they were quashed by a tough crackdown.

Mousavi's statements, reported on pro-opposition news Web site, reflect his movement's struggles to leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Iran's turmoil.

survive after a wave of arrests that netted protesters, top pro-reform politicians and journalists. Hard-liners have called for Mousavi himself to be jailed. Since the crackdown, the dramatic marches that filled main streets after the disputed June 12 presidential elections have vanished.

Meanwhile, the Islamic clerical leadership is showing its determination to keep control. Supreme

Monday issued a sharp warning to Western nations not to criticize Iran over its crackdown, saying relations will suffer if they are seen as "meddling." Iranians, he said, would "unite against their enemies into one fist."

His warning appeared to be directed at world powers gathering at the G8 summit in Rome this week, who are to consider a coordinated response to

WORLD BRIEFS

World's oldest Christian Bible digitized

LONDON (AP)—The surviving pages of the world's oldest Christian Bible have been reunited—digitally. The early work known as the Codex Sinaiticus has been housed in four separate locations across the world for more than 150 years. But starting Monday, it became available for perusal on the Web at http://www. codexsinaiticus.org so scholars and other readers can get a closer look at what the British Library calls a "unique treasure." "(The book) offers

a window into the development of early Christianity and firsthand evidence of how the text of the Bible was transmitted from generation to generation," said Scot McKendrick, head of Western manuscripts at the British Library. As it survives today, Codex Sinaiticus comprises just over 400 large leaves of prepared animal skin, each of which measures 15 inches by 13.5 inches (380 millimeters by 345 millimeters). It is the oldest book that contains a complete New Testament and is only missing parts of the Old Testament and the Apocrypha.

NY al-Qaida suspect wants to 'make peace' with USA

NEW YORK (AP)—A U.S.-educated Pakistani scientist accused of shooting at FBI agents and helping al-Qaida turned a hearing to decide if she's competent for trial into a pulpit for telling anyone who would listen that she doesn't hate America but doesn't trust its courts. Aafia Siddiqui repeatedly spoke Monday to spectators, a U.S. marshal's deputy sitting behind her, her lawvers and even a team of five prosecutors and aides in front of her at the start of the afternoon

session of the daylong proceeding. They were her first public comments since she was brought to the United States from Afghanistan 11 months ago.

Britons turn living statues atop London column

LONDON (AP)—It's art for the people, of the people—and definitely by the people. A 35-year-old mother-oftwo stepped onto an 23 foot-high (7 meter-high) stone plinth in Trafalgar Square on Monday, kicking off an ambitious art project that puts members of the British public on display in the iconic plaza alongside statues of the country's military heroes. Artist Antony Gormley, who came up with the idea, said it would provide "a living picture" of Britain "in all its wonderful difference." The 2,400 participants, chosen at random from thousands of applicants, include an Elvis impersonator, a man on a folding pink bicycle and a woman dressed as a pigeon. Each will spend an hour on the 5 foot by 14 foot (1.5 meter by 4.3 meter) plinth—a statue's base-and all are free to do whatever they want with the time.

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Campus Life

Cram schools: Preparing for more than a quiz

By MICHAEL ALISON CHANDLER (C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—When Aran Park directed a tutoring center in South Korea, her workday ended at 3 a.m. That's when her last class let out. "We have a saying in Korea: If you sleep three hours, you succeed; if you sleep four hours, you fail," she said.

Park opened another tutoring center in the corner of a Centreville, Va., office building last year. At the Living Stone Academy, she runs a strict program with daily quizzes and lots of homework, but on a distinctly American schedule that ends by 4 p.m. "It is summer vacation," she said, laughing. "I don't want to take away all the fun they deserve."

Many Koreans who move to the United States are relieved to be rid of the expensive and energy-sapping cram schools where, driven by intense competition to get into top universities, students spend most of their waking hours after the school day ends.

But a new and gentler version of cram school is emerging in the United States. Over the past 15 years, scores of Korean-run academies have opened in strip malls and office buildings in immigrant enclaves. Names such as Elite Academy and Einstein Academy reflect the educational goals that brought families halfway around the world.

This summer, thousands of Korean-American students, along with an increasing number of non-Koreans, will attend them to prepare for next year's math classes, SAT tests or the entrance exam for Thomas Jefferson High



Left, Jabez Seo, 7, draws a jar and fills it with something "outside the ordinary," his class assignment in Springfield, Va. Many Koreans who move to the United States are relieved to be rid of cram schools where students spend most of their waking hours after the school day ends. But a new and gentler version of cram school is emerging in the United States. The Washington Post

School for Science and Technology.

The schools are designed to give students a competitive edge, but many offer far more than academic support. They help newcomers adjust to a new

culture, new expectations and a dramatically different public school system. For some families, they are a lifeline between the old world and the new.

"It's not all academics in America.

You have to get involved in other things," said Matthew Lee, who emigrated from Korea as a teen-ager and established Best Academy in 1994.

Getting involved can be a difficult

concept for students who for years have been pushed to make academics their primary focus. So Lee, a guidance counselor in Fairfax County, Va., schools, offers academic classes in the morning and fills the afternoon with extracurricular activities that many public schools offer and American colleges expect to see on applications. He also counsels parents who are unfamiliar with American education traditions.

Best Academy charges \$1,100 for an eight-week enrichment program for elementary and middle school students. Many academies' rates are far higher. In the fall, students go once or twice a week after the regular school day.

This summer, they are taking art classes, going on field trips and volunteering on political campaigns. They go to the pool, and they watch movies. The school offers clubs for origami, journalism and mental math.

On a sunny afternoon this week, two dozen third- and fourth-graders in art class concentrated on a blank page. Their task, the teacher said, was to draw a jar and fill it with something large and "outside the ordinary." With colored pencils, they filled the space with a dragon, a candy store, a beach and a man.

Lee tries to introduce newcomers to American public school traditions. "Spirit days," such as Funny Hat Day or Pajama Day, are commonplace in American schools but baffling to students accustomed to regimens and uniforms. He lets them practice the goofy tradition at his academy first, "where they feel more safe," he said.

Demand increases as funding decreases at nation's community colleges

By VALERIE STRAUSS

WASHINGTON—Hundreds of thousands of students are likely to be turned away from low-cost community colleges nationwide over the next year because of funding cuts at the very time that record numbers of students are flocking to the open-admission schools, according to education officials.

The Obama administration is promising to help the country's almost 1,200 community colleges, which educate about 12 million students, or 44 percent of all undergraduates, including the majority of blacks and Hispanics. White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel recently said that the administration was working on a plan that would allow as many as 5 million more students or laid-off workers to attend the schools, which are at the fore of retraining efforts.

But it is unclear whether the infusion of resources will be sufficient or swift enough to stop the plans of schools to trim programs and staff as a result of severe budget cuts from state and local governments, school officials say.

"For us to turn away students is anathema," said Norma Kent, vice president of communications for the nonprofit American Association of Community Colleges, based here. "We are open-enrollment institutions. It's in our DNA."



The country's almost 1,200 community colleges educate about 12 million students, or 44 percent of all undergraduates, including majority of blacks and Hispanics.

Officials at community colleges say they are trying to find ways to handle a decline in resources without rejecting students, but with enrollment rising, it might not be possible to serve everyone.

"I worry about it all the time," said Robert Templin, president of suburban Northern Virginia Community College, which has lost more than 10 percent of its state funding, or \$8.2 million in the past two years, and is preparing for a possible additional 5 percent cut. "We're trying to make up some of the cuts through tuition increases, but it is not enough to help us keep up with demands. These state budget reductions are happening at a time when more and more people recognize that getting a colleg critical to their future."

The recession has driven state and local legislatures, which provide community colleges with 60 percent of their funding, to cut resources for the schools as they try to close deep deficits.

Meanwhile, high unemployment is driving more people to seek low-cost retraining as difficult economic times are prompting some parents to send their children to two-year schools rather than more expensive four-year institutions. The result is an unprecedented surge in the number of applicants to community colleges.

Community colleges, Kent said, are "the safety valve" for the neediest students. Average tuition and fees total about \$2,400, compared with the average tuition of \$6,600 for in-state public four-year colleges, according to the AACC. The most vulnerable students, she said, are first-generation—often minorities-who might not enroll early enough to beat new caps or class-

"It's sad," she said. "Community colleges are under greater stress than they've ever been, just when they are in more demand than they have ever been."

Kent said hundreds of thousands of students could be turned away this coming year from community colleges, especially in states where the legislatures are facing the deepest deficits.

At NVCC, Templin cut 45 full-time staff positions but hired more adjunct professors to handle a record number of students. Summer enrollment is up 10 percent from a year ago, and officials expect a big jump in the fall.

The nation's largest community college, Miami Dade College, announced that it is effectively capping enrollment at the current 167,000 students for the first time because of deep budget cuts by the Florida legislature. Because no class sections can be added, officials there say they expect more than 5,000 students to be unable to enroll in any classes this fall and at least 30,000 more to miss out on classes necessary for graduation.

In the 110-school California system, at least 200,000 students could be forced to give up plans to enroll this coming year, officials there said.

One school, City College of San Francisco, has announced a plan to allow individuals to pay \$6,000 to save a course on the chopping block and rename it after the donor in return-although school trustees postponed implementation.

The San Diego Community College District is expecting to cut \$10 million from its 2009-10 budget, on top of the \$10 million it eliminated last year. As a result, 117 full-time employee positions will be eliminated, as will more than 1,300 classes.

'All of us are concerned about the reduction in classes when the region's high unemployment has caused many to turn to community colleges for retraining," District Chancellor Constance Carroll said in a statement.

At Tacoma Community College in Washington state, fall enrollment is 40 percent ahead of last year, and more than 40 sections—mostly in math, science and English-have been added. The school was 14 percent overenrolled last year, said communications director Dale Stowell, meaning it received no state funding for one in every seven students. With classes expected to be filled sometime next month, he expects many students to be turned away.

Life & Style

By ARTHUR HIRSCH

(C) 2009, THE BALTIMORE SUN

The treatment for terminal cancer that Mary Ellen Heibel took at Johns Hopkins Hospital in 2004 and early 2005 worked beyond anyone's hopes, wiping out malignant tumors in her lungs, liver, stomach and chest. Her doctor did not expect it, nor could he explain it.

Surely the outcome was remarkable, but was it—in the sense applied by the Roman Catholic Church in such cases—a miracle?

In a few weeks, a committee appointed by the Archdiocese of Baltimore will begin exploring that question, examining 11 witnesses, including Heibel, pressing her doctors, nurses and friends in an attempt to understand what happened. The findings will be shipped to Rome and ultimately will bear on a campaign to have Francis Xavier Seelos, the 19th-century Maryland priest to whom Heibel had turned in prayer for

the shape and size of a pinkie nail is preserved in a reliquary kept in the rectory.

For years Seelos-who also served as a pastor in Baltimore and Cumberland—has been a physical presence for Heibel, 71, a mother of four and grandmother of 11. In a brass necklace reliquary about the size of a silver dollar, the retired antiques appraiser wears a fragment of his bone no longer than the "L" in relic.

She has carried Seelos with her this way since early 2003, when she was diagnosed with and underwent surgery for esophageal cancer at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. About a year later, doctors there found that the surgery had missed a cancerous lymph node. So began a sevenweek, five-day-a-week regimen of radiation and chemotherapy.

She prayed with Seelos. She asked fellow parishioners to do the same.

Seelos' following had been building for decades. In New Orleans especially, where he died at



Mary Ellen Heibel, a parishioner at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Annapolis, Md., wears a charm bearing a tiny bone fragment from Francis X. Seelos, the priest to whom she turned in prayer when she learned that she had terminal cancer.

Cancer, prayers and a case for sainthood

help, canonized as a saint.

For only the fifth time in its 200-year history, the archdiocese has launched a test of faith and science to help the Vatican determine whether one of its own was not only exemplary in virtue during life but now has the power in death to intercede with God. In the end, it will be up to the pope to rule on whether Seelos is to join the men and women held up by the church through the centuries as models of holiness.

"Did what happened come about by the intercession of Blessed Seelos? That's what we have to discover," said the Rev. Gilbert J. Seitz, the judicial vicar who heads the committee.

The Rev. William Graham, a canon lawyer and member of the committee, says the purpose of the examination is to determine what took place and whether it can be attributed to natural causes.

Heibel and her husband, John, parishioners at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Annapolis, continue their weekly routine of early morning prayers seeking the help of Seelos, the Redemptorist priest who in several ways remains present at the church where he served two stints in the mid-1800s. The German native beams from stained glass in the nave, watches from a photograph on a wall near the church office, sits in a statue on a bench in the garden. A chip of his breastbone



Mary Ellen Heibel, 71, a former antiques appraiser, views a portrait of Francis X. Seelos in her home. He metastatic cancer vanished after she began calling on him for help.

the age of 48 in 1867 of yellow fever while tending to victims of the disease, his reputation was enhanced in the early 1970s. That's when a local woman who had been diagnosed with terminal liver cancer was found free of the disease after prayers calling on Seelos. An investigation similar to the one in Heibel's case affirmed this as a miracle. and Seelos was beatified in a ceremony in Rome in 2000.

The priest known as the "cheerful ascetic" thereafter would be known officially as "Blessed Seelos," standing one step away from sainthood.

The difference would be one more miracle, one more case confirmed by a process that has been developing for centuries, as saintmaking transformed from a spontaneous phenomenon to a formal procedure giving ultimate canonization authority to the pope.

Canonization, Seitz said, is the way the church identifies those who have lived uniquely and remarkably their life in Christ. ... In their single-mindedness, in their dedication to Christ, they could be a model."

The Rev. Byron Miller of

New Orleans, Seelos' churchappointed U.S. advocate and director of the Seelos Center, is confident that his man has the stuff of holiness.

"I don't want to sound smug," he said, but "we'll get Seelos where he needs to be. I really do think it's a matter of when. There's nothing I can see that would prevent Father Seelos from becoming a saint."

Heibel turned to Seelos when her treatment began at Walter Reed. She sought his help when she got the word in spring 2004 that the cancer had returned, turning up in five places where it had not been found before. That May, her doctor at Walter Reed told her that she probably had six months to live.

"I went home and started doing my own research," Heibel said. She found out about a chemotherapy trial for esophageal cancer patients being conducted at Hopkins. Although she did not qualify for the trial, Dr. Michael K. Gibson agreed to treat her with a new combination of two established drugs.

"I told her this could be controlled but it could not be cured," said Gibson, now an assistant professor of medicine and oncology at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. At best, he thought, the treatment could double her life expectancy to 12 months.

"You try to be hopeful but realistic," he said.

In January 2005, a friend who recently had converted to Catholicism suggested that the Heibels ask their pastor to begin a schedule of novenas—prayers for a particular purpose recited nine days consecutively or once a week for nine weeks—appealing to Seelos.

As they recall, they began on a Wednesday in late January, stepping into a conference room with then-pastor Rev. Denis Sweeney as the Seelos reliquary—a metal ornamental piece that looks roughly like an elaborate candlestick—was brought in and placed on the table. They prayed, addressing themselves to the "Divine Physician" and asking for help from Seelos, who had been given "the gift of your healing.'

They cannot remember exactly how many times they prayed in this way before Heibel underwent the scan of Feb. 8, a week after her final chemotherapy treatment.

Gibson said his recollection is that the cancer must have been diminishing along the way, but this scan showed something extraordinary. Although there was a possibility that residue of the disease remained, Gibson said, "all the other stuff she had went away."

He departed from his usual practice and left a message on Heibel's answering machine.

"Dr. Gibson called and said, 'Congratulations on your CT scan," " she said. "He said, 'There's no tumors left. They're all gone."

The Heibels say that each scan since has been clear. She was last examined a year ago and has a scan scheduled in August.

"Something worked very well," said Dr. Larry Fitzpatrick, chief of surgery at Mercy Medical Center, who will serve as medical expert on the archiocesan committee.

Preparing for his committee role, Fitzpatrick spoke to specialists at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

"They've all got a few stories like this," he said. "Is this woman really any different from these, what I would call 'statistically improbable' cases? The outcome is very unusual, but it's not the only one.

Fitzpatrick said his role on the panel is to be the scientist, but as a Catholic, he says, he must entertain the possibility of a supernatural cause.

Gibson, a Presbyterian, is not discounting the idea of divine intervention in Heibel's case.

"The easy answer is, 'I'll take any help I can get," he said. "It was probably a combination of the chemotherapy and good fortune."

Heibel is not sure how to explain it.

"The only thing we're not supposed to call it is a miracle," she said.

Well, perhaps not yet.

Jackson memorial performers announced as LA braces

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The stage was set Monday for Michael Jackson's final act as the world capital of make-believe braced for what could be the biggest, gaudiest celebrity send-off of all time. Ecstatic fans who won the lottery for seats at Tuesday's all-star memorial received the tickets and spangly wrist-bands that will get them into the 20,000-seat Staples Center downtown.

The family announced the participants will include Stevie Wonder, Mariah Carey, Usher, Lionel Richie, Kobe Bryant, Jennifer Hudson, John Mayer and Martin Luther King III.

The legal maneuvering that marked Jackson's extraordinary and troubled life also continued on Monday, with his mother losing a bid to control his enormous but tangled estate. And in one of the few sour notes sounded, a New York congressman branded Jackson a "pervert" undeserving of so much attention.

More than 1.6 million people registered for free tickets to the 10 a.m. memorial, which will be broadcast live worldwide. A total of 8,750 people were chosen to receive two tickets each. The lucky ones picked up their passes Monday at Dodger Stadium amid heavy police presence.

"I got the golden ticket!" one fan screamed out of his car window in a Willy Wonka moment as he drove out of the parking lot.

"My mother loves Elvis. This is my Elvis," said Mynor Garcia, 29, who picked up his tickets.

Downtown hotels were quickly filling. Police, trying to avoid a mob scene downtown, warned those without tickets to stay away because they would not be able to get close to the Staples Center.

British Airways reported a surge of bookings as soon as the memorial arrangements were announced. Virgin's trans-Atlantic flights to San Francisco, Las Vegas and Los Angeles were all packed with fans and VIPs, said spokesman Paul Charles.

"I think this is America's version of Princess Diana. People want to be in the vicinity. People from the UK and elsewhere want to share their emotions together," Charles said.

The family is also expected to hold a private funeral Tuesday morning at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Los Angeles. No public funeral procession through city streets is scheduled. Some family members have expressed a desire to bury Jackson someday at Neverland, his storybook estate in Southern California. That would require legal permission.

In Los Angeles Superior Court, meanwhile, a judge appointed Jackson's longtime attorney and a family friend as administrators of his estate over the objections of his mother, Katherine. Attorney John Branca and music execu-

Elephants to crash Staples before Jackson memorial

LOS ANGELES (AP)—As if the atmosphere outside Staples Center didn't promise to be circus-like enough come Tuesday morning, they're sending in the elephants.

A herd of 11 Asian elephants and seven horses is scheduled to lumber into a side entrance of the complex before dawn Tuesday in preparation for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus opening there Wednesday.

Depending on when the Michael Jackson fans show up, pachyderms and King of Pop buffs could come face to face. A circus spokeswoman said the crowds wouldn't faze the animals.

"The elephants are very comfortable around people," said Amy McWethy, spokeswoman for Ringling Bros.' parent company, Feld Entertainment. "They have their handlers with them all the time. They're used to light and other factors, and they're used to noise."

It's a decades-old tradition to parade the giants through the streets of the circus' host city, and Ringling Bros. arranged a permit with city Animal Services to usher them three miles from their train in Union Station to the arena.

In spite of the memorial service and road closures near the Staples Center, the show is going on. The circus will be using the same arena as the Jackson event, but the animals—which also include big cats—will be stowed in a barn until the crowds clear out, McWethy said.

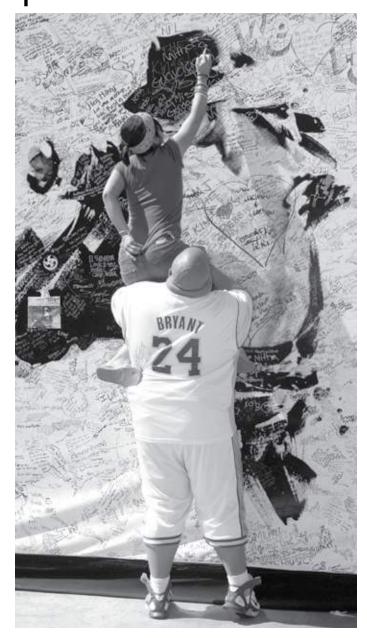
Animal Services is working with the police department to escort the mammals during their march, which will begin at 3:30 a.m. PDT and last for about two hours.

"Our experience in the past has been good and we don't expect any incidents," said Kathy Davis, interim manager of the city's Animal Services department.

tive John McClain had been designated in Jackson's 2002 will as the people he wanted to oversee his empire.

Mrs. Jackson's attorneys expressed concerns about Mc-Clain and Branca's financial leadership.

"Frankly, Mrs. Jackson has concerns about handing over



the keys to the kingdom," said one of her attorneys, John E. Schreiber.

Another one of her attorneys, Burt Levitch, told Judge Mitchell Beckloff that Branca had previously been removed from financial positions of authority by Jackson. Branca's attorney said he was rehired by Jackson on June 17, days before Jackson's death.

Branca and McClain will have to post a \$1 million bond on the estate, and their authority will expire Aug. 3, when another hearing will be held.

"Mr. Branca and Mr. Mc-Clain for the next month are at the helm of the ship," the judge said.

Jackson died at age 50 with hundreds of millions in debts. But a court filing estimates his estate is worth more than \$500 million. His assets are destined for a trust, with his three children, his mother and charities as beneficiaries.

On eBay, bids for the memorial tickets were reaching as high as \$3,000, though it was impossible to establish how serious those offers were. On Craigslist, asking prices also were in the thousands.

Debbie Rowe, Jackson's exwife and the mother of Jackson's two oldest children, had planned to attend the memorial but backed out Monday.

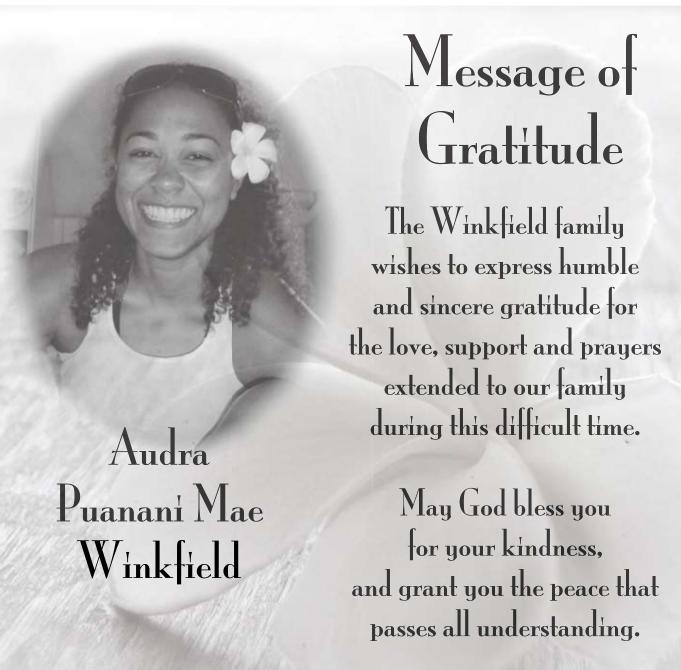
"The onslaught of media attention has made it clear her attendance would be an unnecessary distraction to an event that should focus exclusively on Michael's legacy," her attorney Marta Almli said in a statement. "Debbie will continue to celebrate Michael's memory privately."

In New York, Republican Rep. Peter King released a YouTube video calling Jackson, who was acquitted of child molestation charges, a "pervert" and a "low-life."

But the memories of Jackson's problems were far from the minds of fans preparing to say goodbye.

In a convergence of events that many people found delightfully symbolic, the circus is also coming to town. Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey starts a run at Staples Center on Wednesday. In the predawn hours before Jackson's memorial, the elephants will walk from the train station into the arena.

Gilbert Guaydacan, of Bakerfield, Calif., holds his daughter Anntoinette, 14, while she signs a large poster at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, Monday, July 6, 2009, where the memorial service for pop star Michael Jackson will be held on Tuesday.



NY congressman's video calls Jackson a 'pervert'

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York congressman who is considering a Senate run posted a YouTube video calling Michael Jackson a "pervert" and questioning the exhaustive media coverage of the pop star's death.

Rep. Peter King, a Long Island Republican, said in the video posted Sunday that society is glorifying a "low-life" while hardworking teachers, police officers, firefighters and veterans don't get the credit they deserve.

"This guy was a pervert," King said in the video, shot Sunday by a staff member outside an American Legion hall. "He was a child molester. He was a pedophile. And to be giving this much coverage to him, day in and day out, what does it say about us as a country?"

A jury acquitted Jackson in 2005 of charges that he molested a 13-year-old cancer survivor.

But in a telephone interview Monday, King said that Jackson had "admitted to sleeping with young boys, traveling with young boys. ... That's the definition of pedophilia."

In a 2003 documentary, Jackson admitted to letting children sleep with him in his bed at his California home but said it wasn't sexual.

The congressman called the coverage of Jackson's death too politically correct.

He said Jackson may have been a good singer and dancer but added: "The bottom line is, would you let your child or grandchild be in the same room with Michael Jackson?"

Ken Sunshine, a spokesman for Jackson's family, declined to respond to King's criticism. "We will not dignify this or any other statement with a comment," he said.

Coverage of the 50-year-old superstar's death and related matters such eo critique after speaking with constitu-

Brooke Shields talks about 'asexual' Michael Jackson

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Brooke Shields was 13 when she first met Michael Jackson and the two "instantly became friends"-mainly because sexual tension was off the table.

"Nothing was jaded about him," the 44-year-old actress told Rolling Stone magazine for a special commemorative issue about the King of Pop, on sale Friday.

Shields said the two became close since sexuality wasn't a part of their friendship. She describes her young self as "the most celebrated virgin ever" at a time when women "wanted to throw themselves at (Jackson) and feel like they were going to teach him."

Shields said that as Jackson grew up, "the more asexual he became to me." But he was curious about her early relationships.

"He was like a little kid who talked about the bases—what first base was, what second base was," Shields said. "It sounded very odd to the outside, I can imagine, but to the inside, to someone who's never really left his bubble, you can understand how he would be curious."

Shields said she last saw Jackson in 1991, at Elizabeth Taylor's most recent wedding.

"We snuck in and took pictures of ourselves next to her dress," Shields recalled. "We always seemed to revert to being little kids."

as the custody of his three children has dominated headlines and airwaves since Jackson died June 25.

King said he decided to post his vid-



In this June 10, 2009 file photo, actress Brooke Shields attends the Cinema Society screening of "Whatever Works" in New York.

ents over the Fourth of July weekend.

"A number of them were mentioning to me, 'When's this stuff with Michael Jackson going to end?" King said. "It's just too much."

King is considering seeking the GOP nomination for the U.S. Senate seat held by Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, which is up in 2010.

He said he has posted other Internet

Movie theaters to show Jackson memorial service

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Only a small number of fans will be able to attend Michael Jackson's memorial service. But others may be able to watch it in movie theaters all over the country.

Cinedigm Digital Cinema Corp. is carrying the Los Angeles memorial service on its live digital network to theaters nationwide.

Cinedigm spokeswoman Suzanne Moore said she expected about 50 theaters would carry the memorial service. Among those confirmed to show the service were cinemas in about 20 states, including venues in Atlanta; Las Vegas; Topeka, Kan.; Mobile, Ala.; Pensacola, Fla.; Lansing, Mich.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; and Utica, N.Y.

Locations and details will be updated on the company's Web site, http://www.cinedigm.com.

Admission will be free based on space availability.

More than 1.6 million people registered to win tickets for the memorial service at the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles. Only 8,750 names were chosen, each of whom received two free tickets.

videos on issues such as cap-and-trade legislation to control pollution, but those videos did not receive as much attention as the Michael Jackson comments have.

Versatile Del Toro thrives under 'Strain'

By GEOFF BOUCHER

(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD-Fantasy and horror fans, prepare yourselves for the Decade of del Toro.

On the far side of the globe, in New Zealand, filmmaker Guillermo del Toro is in his seventh month of labor on "The Hobbit," a \$300-million epic that will be told over two films to be released in 2011 and 2012. But you can also find the Guadalajara, Mexico, native now on the shelf of your local bookstore with his debut novel, "The Strain," which is the opening installment of a vampire trilogy he has already fully mapped out.

That's only the beginning. The 44-year-old del Toro, who was Oscar nominated for the dark fairy tale "Pan's Labyrinth" and has shown his crowd-pleasing sensibilities with the "Hellboy" films, also has plans to reanimate some musty and monstrous literary classics by making a "Frankenstein" film as well as an adaptation of the H.P. Lovecraft epic "At the Mountains of Madness," a project he breathlessly refers to simply as "my obsession."

That would seem to be a full enough plate for anyone but, in a recent phone interview, he chuckled and admitted he's got another one to add to the pile: "I think after 'The Hobbit,' my next project may

actually turn out to be 'Drood," he said, referring to the 2009 novel by Dan Simmons that presents Charles Dickens at the center of an occult mystery in 1860s

acclaimed 2007 Spanish ghost story "The Orphanage." He also wants to join the increasingly popular quest to find the undiscovered country of inter-



LOS ANGELES TIMES

After "The Hobbit," Guillermo del Toro may film "Drood" or "At the Mountains

Victorian London. Del Toro has also talked about adapting "Slaughterhouse-Five," Kurt Vonnegut's surreal antiwar tale of time travel.

If you're keeping track, that would have del Toro tied up well past 2015 and perhaps into 2017. He is also flirting with other projects ("Pinocchio," "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" and a third "Hellboy" film have been mentioned at various times), but perhaps only in the role of producer, as he did with the active 21st century storytelling, which lies somewhere between Hollywood films and video games as we know them today.

It's a dizzying career plan for the father of two (his wife and daughters have moved to New Zealand to be with him during production of "The Hobbit") but right now, no venture has him more enthused than "The Strain," the 401-page novel that was co-written with Chuck Hogan and released in hardcover last

month by William Morrow. The book has received generally good reviews and fulfills the earliest ambition of del Toro, who as a boy in Mexico dreamed of being an author long before filmmaking captured his heart.

"The Strain" presents an unsettling tale of a vampiric virus on the loose in New York City. It was about four years ago that the story started taking shape in del Toro's imagination, and his inspiration was a surprising one.

"I was watching 'The Wire' on cable and I was addicted to it," the filmmaker said. "I really felt caught up in this idea of doing a procedural, a limited cable series, which married the ideas of biology, of anatomy, of vampirism and evolved through the seasons into the spiritual and mythological aspects of the theme—and always with the everyday details and prosaic settings, and the rhythms of a procedural."

The plan at first was to present "The Strain" as a television series, limited to three seasons, and del Toro was gripped with excitement as he got deeper into the tale.

"I prepared a 'bible' of the three seasons and went to the network that I had a deal with, which was Fox. They read the bible and listened to the pitch with the opening scene of the 747 stopping mysteriously on the runway at JFK and the mystery that followed, and I was very happy with it."

And how did the network respond? "They said two things: 'It's too expensive, first of all, and what we would really love is a vampire comedy.' That was my first and only encounter with television. I retreated quickly."

The vampires of "The Strain" are not emo pretty boys, not with skin that, on close inspection, reminds one young human character of a "pickled pig fetus" he saw back in science class. "The idea is to keep reminding people that these are undead things. To start with biology and then also help the audience make sense of all the vampire traits that they already know," del Toro said.

He won't need to remind anyone of "The Hobbit's" origins. In nine months, he will begin shooting the film, and all he has to do is match the Tolkien achievement of Peter Jackson, the "Lord of the Rings" director whose three films pulled in more than \$2.9 billion at the box office worldwide and collected 17 Oscars, including one for best picture and another for director. (Jackson is back as producer on "The Hobbit" and said last year that he "cannot think of a more inspired filmmaker to take the journey back to Middle-earth.")

Del Toro is in the midst of intense preproduction, doing work with models, script pages, set blueprints and, literally, thousands of detail decisions. Asked what he wants to accomplish and what he wants to avoid with the film, del Toro said: "What I want to do is make the best movie I have ever done. What I want to avoid is to make some fastidious tracing of lines that were established by the 'Lord of the Rings' trilogy.

racket for diamond ring

KING OF PRUSSIA, Pa. (AP)-Anna Kournikova was sparkling brighter than usual.

Kournikova, who has long been linked to singer Enrique Iglesias, showed up for Monday night's World Team Tennis match with a huge diamond ring on her left ring finger—the finger normally reserved for engagement rings.

When asked the significance of the ring by The Associated Press, Kournikova replied, "I thought you were the good press." The former Grand Slam doubles champion put her hand behind her back and did not elaborate.

Kournikova was scheduled to play for the St. Louis Aces. She will miss the season with a wrist injury, and wore a protective wrap on her left hand.

She still participated in a kid's clinic, signed autographs and cheered on her teammates.

'American Idol' judge DioGuardi gets married

NEW YORK (AP)—Kara DioGuardi had a busy Fourth of July weekend: The "American Idol" judge married her beau, contractor Mike McCuddy.



DioGuardi

Dio-Guardi's publicist, Danica Smith, says the couple tied the knot on Sunday in

Prospect Harbor, Maine. Smith says 30 guests witnessed the ceremony at the Prospect Harbor United Methodist Church.

DioGuardi—who wore a dress by Vera Wang—became engaged to McCuddy in December.

It's been a big year for Dio-Guardi: The 38-year-old songwriter joined the judges' panel on "American Idol," adding new blood to the Fox singing contest's regular three-judge format.

Her songs have been recorded by Kelly Clarkson, Gwen Stefani, Celine Dion and Faith Hill, among others.

Kournikova trades tennis | Three's Company' star cited for drunken driving



EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)— An actress who starred on the hit television series "Three's Company" has been arrested in Southern California and cited for drunken driving. Police say Joyce DeWitt, who played the character Janet Wood on the popular show, was pulled over Saturday afternoon after she drove past a barricade near a park in El Segundo.

Sgt. Danny Kim says an officer arrested the 60-year-old DeWitt after he observed signs she had been drinking and gave her field sobriety tests.

Kim says DeWitt was booked at the Police Department, cited and released on her own recog-

A telephone listing for DeWitt was not immediately available.

This photo released by the El Segundo, Calif., Police Department shows actress Joyce DeWitt, who portrayed Janet on "Three's Company," after she was arrested Saturday, July 4, 2009, on the suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol.

Actor Kal Penn starts work as White House liaison

WASHINGTON (AP)—Actor Kal Penn started a new job Monday as a liaison between the White House and Asian communities.

The Indian-American actor is taking a break from Hollywood to work as an associate director in the Office of Public Liaison, with a focus on connecting President Barack Obama with the Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities, as well as arts groups.

Penn had a recurring role on Fox's TV show "House" and starred in several films including "Harold & Kumar Go to White

Castle" and its sequel, "Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay'

Penn, who backed Obama during the campaign, said the new job has nothing to do with his life as an actor.

"I expect to be treated just like any other staff member," he told reporters on a conference call.

He is even applying this quest for a fresh start to his identity, saying he will use his given name, Kalpen Modi, instead of his acting moniker while working for the Obama administration.

Penn described the public li-

aison office as the "front door to the White House." He said his job would be engaging with constituent communities and making sure they feel that they have a seat at the table.

Asked about the differences between the new job and his work in Hollywood, Penn joked that he now wears a suit.

When pressed about preparing for his first day on the job Monday morning, he said, "I brushed my teeth; I did floss, used mouthwash ... took the bus to work, same thing that everybody does."



In this April 13, 2009, file photo, actor Kal Penn, left, stands with Michael Strautmanis, Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Relations and Public Liaison, center, and senior adviser Valerie Jarrett, at the White House Easter Egg Roll on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Judith Ivev's theater schedule gets even busier

NEW YORK (AP)—Could the theater season get any busier for Judith Ivey? The Roundabout Theatre Company says the actress will play domineering mother Amanda Wingfield in a revival of "The Glass Menagerie." The classic Tennessee Williams memory play opens March 24 at the Roundabout's Laura Pels Theatre. Previews begin March 4. This summer, Ivey, a two-time Tony winner, is directing the musical "Vanities," opening July 16 at off-Broadway's Second Stage Theatre. And in the fall, the 57-year-old

problem-solving columnist Ann Landers in "The Lady With All the Answers." David Rambo's play is drawn from Landers' life and letters. The one-woman show begins performances Oct. 7 at the Cherry Lane Theatre.

After 39 years, a final countdown for Casey Kasem

LOS ANGELES (AP)---Casey Kasem has done his final countdown. The 77-year-old DJ told "American Top 20" listeners across the country Saturday that the program would be his last. Kasem launched his weekly countdown of the nation's most popular songs, the "American been moved from critical care Top 40," on July 4, 1970. Ryan Seacrest took over the show in 2004, and Kasem went on to host two syndicated spinoffs, the "American Top 20" and "American Top 10." Kasem said he "loved every minute" of his broadcasting career, but that he was leaving the show to "free up time I need to focus on myriad other projects."

Spokesman: Country singer Ferlin Husky improving

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A spokesman for country star Ferlin Husky says the hospitalized singer is improving and has

in Nashville. The 83-year-old singer was admitted to the hospital Thursday and treated for an accelerated heart rate, possible pneumonia and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Heart of Texas Records President Tracy Pitcox said Monday that Husky could be released Thursday or Friday. Husky, who lives in Vienna, Mo., was hospitalized in April with congestive heart failure and pneumonia after a monthlong tour in Texas. Husky was country music's top entertainer in the early 1960s with hits like "Wings of a Dove" and "Gone." His latest album, released in 2007, is called "The Way It Was

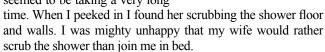
Pausing to clean shower puts wife in hot water with husband

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: After returning from a five-day vacation, my wife and I discovered our airconditioning system was on the fritz, but we were so tired we went to bed anyway.

I woke up the following morning, grabbed a quick shower and, feeling amorous, gently awakened my wife. I suggested she might want to also shower so we could "get close" before the house got too warm. She agreed.

I waited and waited. She seemed to be taking a very long



She says she did nothing wrong and claims I'm making a mountain out of a molehill. What say you?

STILL HOT AND BOTHERED IN GEORGIA

DEAR STILL H AND B: Has your mind never wandered? Perhaps your wife saw a speck or two of soap scum as she was finishing her shower—after all, two people had just used it. Rather than becoming upset, you should have gone into the shower to help her get the job done. If you had, things might have worked out differently.

DEAR ABBY: If someone is in an "unhappy" marriage with kids, is it a good idea or bad thing to wait until the kids are adults before considering divorce? The parents of almost everyone I know divorced while they were young. Mine did when I was about 20. But I know many couples who are staying together only for their kids, and I wonder if that's best for everyone. Your thoughts, please.

"WENDY" IN WASHINGTON

DEAR "WENDY": You have asked a question for which there is no one-size-fits-all answer. It depends on the condition of the marriage and how well both partners can sublimate their frustrations. While staying together for the sake of the kids may seem like an idyllic solution, I have heard from children of dysfunctional couples saying that although their parents didn't fight openly, they could feel the tension between their parents and would have grown up emotionally healthier if their parents had separated.

DEAR ABBY: I have recently started a great new job at a place I love. One day a week I'm unable to be there, so the woman I replaced works that day.

We now share a desk—which I would not normally mind, but she has left all her belongings on the desk and around the workspace. I'm talking about photos, mementoes, hand creams, shoes, books, etc.

As the primary holder of the position, I think I should be able to keep my personal items in the area and put my own photos on the desk. After all, she is there one day a week only.

I wouldn't be opposed to her having a drawer to herself, or a designated area where she can keep her stuff. I don't want to create animosity between us, so how should I go about this?

DOESN'T DO MONDAYS

DEAR DOESN'T: Because the woman works on the day that you are off, ask your supervisor or office manager to speak to her. Your request seems reasonable and sensible to me, and frankly, I'm surprised that she hasn't realized it and removed most of her things without having to be prompted.

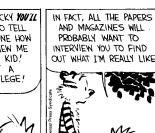
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440. Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby-Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

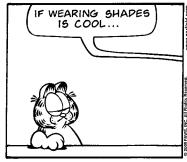
Calvin and Hobbes

I'M DESTINED FOR GREATNESS, I JUST KNOW IT, "CALVIN AND THINK HOW LUCKY YOU'LL BE! YOU'LL GET TO TELL THE GREAT "THEY'LL CALL ME EVERYONE HOW YOU KNEW ME





Garfield®







By Glenn McCoy

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

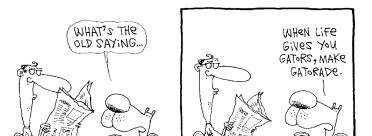


By Bryan Basset



The Duplex





CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** ern

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For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch STUMPED? tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King eatures service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kathleen Robertson, 36; Toby Keith, 48; Kevin Bacon, 51; Anjelica Huston, 58

Happy Birthday: A partnership will have practical implications but a strong emotional connection will make it work. Speak your mind and you will get what you want. You must not allow anyone to get the upper hand. Being prepared for whatever comes your way will be your saving grace. Your numbers are 3, 9, 16, 23, 27, 36, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Getting help may be difficult. You are usually so self-sufficient that no one ever thinks about what you might need. Don't despair; just broaden your time line so you don't feel as pressured. 🛇

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take on extra tasks and show everyone how capable you can be when something needs to get done. You will fool someone who has been trying to take advantage of you by moving ahead in silence and presenting your finished project

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A relationship can lead to sother! your responsibilities. Take care of business or someone who wants to make you look bad will take advantage of your shortcomings. Last-minute changes will save your reputation and position.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you are willing to put in your two-cents worth, you will get what's owed to you in return. Your ideas will be considered by someone looking to make long-term changes. You can position yourself to develop and oversee the venture. 🛇 🔾 🔾

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get involved in something you believe in and you will make a great connection that will help you out personally and professionally. A money making scheme may not be all it's made out to be. Maintain a tight budget and a good savings plan. OOO

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): As much as you think you have a handle on a situation you face, you probably do not. A loved one will disappoint you if you let him or her make a decision that will affect you as well. Change is inevitable. ****OOOO**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Follow your intuition, not what someone else is trying to convince you to do. An emotional issue can be put to rest with compassion and a firm hand. Your strength, belief and experience will make others bend to your requests. OOOOO

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may want to cover your back and avoid anyone trying to coerce you into doing something you don't feel good about. Talks and putting pen to paper will allow you to come up with an agreement that you can live with. ••

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take on a new challenge and you will get to know someone who has had experiences that can help you resolve your current situations. An interesting relationship will develop, leading to more than just a friendship. OOOO

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Problems with legal concerns, contracts or finances can be brought to the attention of whoever is causing you grief and can be resolved. Your stamina and ability to get things done will help you force issues.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your heart and soul on the line and you will get a response that will get a response that will heighten your feelings, allowing you to make some essential alterations to your home and lifestyle. Don't get angry if someone tries to stand in your way but do refuse to budge. 🗪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep a relationship you are interested in starting under wraps for now. Love is on the rise but, before you can let a romance develop, you must get your life in order and issues with past partners resolved. OOO

Birthday Baby: You are a team player and a great companion. You are intuitive and take on challenges with courage and determination.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Vootorday's CIIDOVII Answer

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2	1	7	6	3	8	5	9	4	
6	3	8	9	5	4	2	7	1	

Difficulty Level **

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letter

ASADALIHCNEPFC DLTCHAROLAORHAS DILOCUMINREESO ICENIKSDTTSO TRRPTKAAHDEIOTH IMEOIRENARRASNC V E P T T N O R U R K A T E A EAPSACGTURLLAIN SLEAAWABATCHDDA KEPBSRUDLRXSAEC I P 🛈 A E T I Y S E E I S R I L(I)UPTSETSANMMGX (L) C M E H S I N R A G D M N E EERUPREPAREDLIM

© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com Additives, Bacon, Batch, Blend, Boil, Burrito, Butter, Charola, Cheddar, Cumin, Dipping, Easy, Enchiladas, Fresh, Garnish, Ingredients, Lard, Meal, Mexican, Mild, Mixture, Nachos, Paste, Pepper, Pork, Pots, Prepared, Puree, Radish, Recipe, Salt, Sauce, Simmer, Skillet, Skin, Soak, Spice, Stir, Stock, Strain, Taste, Temperature, Tortilla, Tostadas, Traditional, Water Yesterday's Answer: Pure

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A wily Armstrong jumps from 10th to 3rd



LA GRANDE-MOTTE, France (AP)—If age is Lance Armstrong's enemy, then experi-

With a savvy sense of the pack and a touch of luck, the 37-year-old Texan surprised some of the younger Tour de France contenders Monday to move within striking distance of the yellow jersey.

He made up for what his legs lack in power with road smarts during the breezy third stage along the Mediterranean, rising from 10th to third place.

Armstrong hitched a ride with a breakaway group led by old sidekick George Hincapie's Team Columbia. Mark Cavendish, a Columbia rider from Britain, won the stage for the second straight day.

Race leader Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland kept the yellow jersey for a third day in a row. The Swiss rider with Saxo Bank extended his lead and is ahead of Columbia rider Tony Martin of Germany by 33 seconds and Armstrong by 40.

Most of the favorites were trapped by the wind during the 122-mile ride from Marseille to La Grande-Motte. Sensing the gusts were playing havoc ahead of a turn with about 18 miles to go, Armstrong simply stayed in front, outfoxing riders like Alberto Contador of Spain, the 2007 Tour winner and favorite this year.

"Good positioning, experience, a little bit of luck," Armstrong said. "Just before that corner I was 20 guys back and I decided just that idea to move up enough to be on their wheel. And there it went."

"Whenever you see a team lined up at the front like that, you have to pay attention," he added. "You know what the wind's doing, and you see that a turn's coming up, so it doesn't take a



American seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong, center, strains during the third stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 196.5 kilometers (122 miles) with start in Marseille and finish in La Grande-Motte, southern France, Monday July 6, 2009.

rocket scientist to know that you have to go to the front."

But Contador didn't. Nor did Levi Leipheimer of the United States or Cadel Evans of Australia or 2008 Tour champion Carlos Sastre of Spain. All lost 41 seconds to Cavendish, Armstrong and Cancellara.

Contador dropped from second to fourth overall, 59 seconds behind Cancellara. Leipheimer, Armstrong's Astana teammate, slipped from sixth to 10th, and is 1:11 back.

"I was moving up with a teammate and we ended up in no man's land," Contador said. "I'm not going to evaluate the team strategy because everyone will draw their own conclusions anyway. In any case, the Tour won't be decided by what happened today."

Armstrong, a seven-time champion coming out of retirement, agrees.

"Gained valuable time but most likely minor in scheme of 3 weeks," he wrote on his Twitter account. The race finishes July 26 in Paris. "Onward."

Armstrong said it was "not my objective" to gain ground on Contador, insisting he was "just trying to stay up front and out of trouble.'

But he may have delivered a psychological blow in this stage, leaving rivals to wonder what other opportunistic strikes await. In any case, now they have to catch him.

Tuesday's stage is a 24-mile team time trial that starts and finishes in Montpellier. Astana will have an edge by riding last and seeing how riders fare. The teams set off at seven-minute

intervals in a race against the clock.

If Astana wins with enough of a gap on Cancellara's and Martin's teams, Armstrong could take the yellow jersey. Is it within reach?

"Never say never," Armstrong said. His performance also fanned questions about who deserves the role of

Astana team leader. Manager Johan Bruyneel, who coached Armstrong during his record run of victories, has said it is Contador.

"I have tried to stay out a little bit of the debate about who is the leader?" Armstrong said. "I have won the Tour seven times, so I think I deserve a bit of credit."

Armstrong started the stage by playing catch-up. Stalled by of interviewers and autograph seekers, he was so late to the start he didn't check in at the registration table. All riders are required to sign in before every stage. Tour competition director Jean-Francois Pescheux said Armstrong would receive the standard fine of 100 Swiss francs (\$92).

Pescheux also criticized Armstrong for not making himself more available

"We simply asked his team to have a respectful attitude toward the public," he said. "They want to see the team, they have been here since 7 a.m. and they don't see him."

Armstrong's comeback to cycling's premier race after 3 1/2 years of retirement has sparked considerable interest. Big crowds surround the bus to catch a glimpse of him.

"It's not that we don't respect the public. ... We always try to sign in as late as possible because it's impossible for the riders to come back to the bus (before the stage) and there are too many people around Lance and Contador," Astana team spokesman Philippe Maertens said.

Among those visiting the cycling star Monday in Marseille was actor Ben Stiller. Armstrong had a brief role in Stiller's hit comedy "Dodgeball."

"I'm a big Lance fan," Stiller said. "It's my first time on the Tour. It's the real deal here. I'm very excited."

Riders set off at a snail's pace in the heat and wind. The average pace for the first three hours was less than 22 mph. Cavendish, with his sixth Tour stage win, finished in 5 hours, 1 minute, 24 seconds.

"It was brilliant," Cavendish said. "We were the only sprint team that wanted to ride today.'

Wade says he'll stay if Heat a title contender



MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade will remain in Miami on one condition. He wants the Heat to become a championship contender again, the quicker the better. Otherwise, he might need moving trucks next summer.

The reigning NBA scoring champion, who can opt out of his Heat contract after the 2009-10 season, said Monday that simply getting to the playoffs "is not enough" to satisfy him anymore, and that his long-term commitment to Miami hinges entirely on the franchise getting back into the mix for the title trophy he hoisted just three years ago.

"I'm going to listen. I owe the Miami Heat that much. I'm going to listen to what they have to say and I'm going to think about it," Wade told The Associated Press. "But right now, the way I feel, I want to make sure that we're on track to where I want us to be on track to before I sign back."

Wade made clear that he would like to stay with the Heat, reiterating something he's said countless times in recent months. There's no acrimony between the 2006 NBA finals MVP and Heat president Pat Riley either, and Wade said that the jump Miami made this past season—from 15 wins and the league's worst record in 2007-08, to 43 wins and the No. 5 seed in the East in 2008-09—was thrilling.

"I'm good with that," Wade said, "for one year."

Another season around .500, though, won't be as enticing.

"That's not enough for me," said Wade, who set career-bests last season in scoring average (30.2 per game), 3-point goals (88, three more than his total from his first five NBA seasons combined), steals (2.2 per game), blocks (1.3 per game) and games played (79).

At 27, he feels like he's just entering his prime—and doesn't want to miss any opportunity for more titles.

"I've told coach Riley this: All my life, all I've ever wanted to do is win and be put in a position where I can win and succeed," Wade said. "Build me a team. Put the pressure on me to win a championship. Give me a team and say 'All right, you've got to go do it,' and I'll take that pressure. Give me guys that we feel can compete every year to win a championship. I don't want to go anywhere else."

Wade's contract status is the biggest issue facing the Heat this summer. He could sign an extension as early as next week.

His destination after next season has been an oft-discussed topic, especially since he and good friend LeBron James structured their last contracts the same way to have the flexibility to become free agents in 2010.

"I want to make sure that we stay competitive and we have an opportunity to win championships, like I've done before," Wade said. "I don't want to be content with winning games. I don't want to win games. I want to win championships. That's what I'm all about."

Already this summer, the Heat have seen plenty of teams in the East make big moves. Shaquille O'Neal-Wade's former superstar teammate—was traded to Cleveland to play alongside James. Orlando landed Vince Carter. Boston reportedly agreed with Rasheed Wallace, Detroit picked up Ben Gordon and Toronto seems poised to sign Hedo Turkoglu.

The Heat have yet to make a splashy move, hoping young players like Michael Beasley, Mario Chalmers, Daequan Cook and Dorell Wright can help Miami made more strides this season.

"D-Wade wants what's best for the Miami Heat, period," former Heat center Alonzo Mourning said last week. "Obviously, he wants more help for the Heat to get to that next level again. He feels like we've got good pieces around us. We just need a little bit more."

Wade sees it the same way.

"My talents can help a team compete for a championship," Wade said. "I've proven that."

NBA BRIEFS

Jason Kidd staying with Mavericks

DALLAS (AP)—The Mavericks say they have reached a deal to keep free agent point guard Jason Kidd in Dallas. Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said Monday that Kidd has agreed to sign a three-year contract for more than \$25 million. That could allow the 37vear-old Kidd to end his career with the same team he started with in the NBA in 1994. The deal—which can't be signed until Wednesday-was first reported by ESPN.com.

Villanueva tweets he'll sign with Pistons

DETROIT (AP)—Charlie Villanueva posted a message on his Twitter account, informing his followers he will sign with the Detroit Pistons. He and Ben Gordon agreed to five-year contracts with the Pistons, a person with the knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press last week. Villanueva played for the Milwaukee Bucks last season and Gordon was with the Chicago Bulls. The Pistons were allowed to begin negotiations with free agents on July 1. The league prohibits its teams from announcing deals until the moratorium period ends Wednesday.

Reports: Wallace agrees to deal with Celtics

Two newspapers are reporting the Celtics have reached an agreement with free agent Rasheed Wallace. Bill Strickland,

Wallace's agent, told the Boston Herald and the Boston Globe on Sunday night that the 34-year-old forward told him to call off meetings the agent was in the process of scheduling with the Orlando Magic, San Antonio Spurs and Dallas Mavericks. Wallace played the last six seasons with the Detroit Pistons, where he won an NBA championship in 2004. He heads to a Celtics team loaded with veterans such as Kevin Garnett, Ray Allen and Paul Pierce, and hoping to make at least one more title run. Wallace has averaged 15 points and 6.9 rebounds in 14 NBA seasons. He averaged 12 points and 7.4 rebounds last season. (PR)

Jennings says he'll learn trom YouTube Incident

MILWAUKEE (AP)—First-round draft pick Brandon Jennings has yet to break a sweat in practice for the Milwaukee Bucks, but he's already doing a little backpedaling on defense. Jennings drew unwanted attention last week when his telephone conversation with a rapper was videotaped and posted on YouTube. In the video, Jennings insisted that Ramon Sessions would not return, boasted that he will beat out Luke Ridnour as a starter and made a profane comment about the New York Knicks for not drafting him. Jennings said Monday that he did not know the conversation was being recorded, but acknowledged that he was wrong and pledged to learn a lesson.

Phillies equal first inning record in lopsided 22-1 win



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Chase Utley

and Shane Victorino and Greg Dobbs had two-run shots during a 10-run first inning, leading Philadelphia to a 22-1 victory over Cincinnati on Monday night.

Cole Hamels (5-5) allowed one run and three hits in seven innings to earn his first win since shutting out the Los Angeles Dodgers on June 4.

The Phillies tied a club record for most runs in the first inning. They scored 10 three other times, most recently on June 2, 2002, against Montreal.

It was the most runs by Philadelphia since a 26-7 win over the New York Mets at Veterans Stadium on June 11, 1985. The 22 runs were the most in the 6-year history of Citizens Bank Park.

Rockies 1, Nationals 0

At Denver, Jason Marquis pitched eight innings for his major league-leading 11th win and Todd Helton's RBI double in the first provided Colorado's only run.

Fresh off making his first All-Star team, Marquis pitched out of basesloaded jams in the seventh and eighth innings. Marquis (11-5), who allowed seven hits and struck out three, was coming off a two-hit shutout at Los Angeles on June 30.

Huston Street threw a perfect ninth for his 20th save in 21 chances.

Diamondbacks 6, Padres 5

At Phoenix, Mark Reynolds singled home Justin Upton with two outs in the bottom of the ninth for Arizona.

Upton drew a two-out walk from Cla Meredith (4-2) and stole second before Reynolds lined a single into the left-

Jon Rauch (1-0) pitched the ninth for the Diamondbacks, who have won three straight for the first time since

Tony Gwynn Jr. went 4-for-5 for the Padres, who lost for the fifth time in six games.

Giants 5, Marlins 4

At San Francisco, Pablo Sandoval hit his first career grand slam to help San Francisco's Matt Cain earn his 10th victory.

Sandoval's 13th homer came off Sean West (3-3) in the fifth innings, Nate Schierholtz added a sacrifice fly as the Giants won for the sixth time in

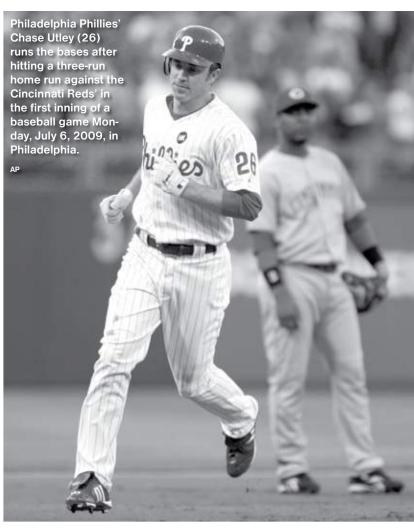
Cain (10-2) ended a three-start winless stretch and has his second-most victories during five years in the majors. He struck out five and walked two in 6 2-3 innings, allowed one earned run and five hits.

Cubs 4, Braves 2

At Chicago, rookie Randy Wells won his fourth straight start and Derrek Lee homered as Chicago won for the sixth time in eight games.

Wells (4-3) gave up seven hits and two runs in six innings, including a homer to Nate McLouth. Kevin Gregg worked the ninth for his 15th save.

Jair Jurrjens (6-7) gave up four runs and seven hits in six innings, including Lee's 16th homer, a two-run shot in the first.



The Cubs scored two runs in the second with four straight two-out hits to go ahead 4-0.

Astros 4, Pirates 1

At Houston, Mike Hampton pitched seven solid innings and Miguel Tejada and Geoff Blum drove in two runs each for Houston Astros.

Hampton (5-5) allowed one run and three hits to improve to 14-3 with a 2.20 ERA in 20 career starts against Pittsburgh dating to 1995. He has won 10 consecutive starts against the Pirates.

Garrett Jones doubled in the seventh and scored on Robinzon Diaz's single for Pittsburgh's only run.

Blum hit a two-run triple in the first and Tejada's two-run double in the fifth extended Houston's lead to 4-0.

Athletics 6, Red Sox 0

At Boston, Rookie Brett Anderson threw a two-hitter, Oakland's first complete game since last July 8, as he outpitched 21-year veteran John Smoltz in a victory over Boston.

Former Red Sox star Nomar Garciaparra received a one-minute standing ovation before his first at-bat as an opponent at Fenway Park, then singled twice and drove in the first run.

Anderson, who was 82 days old when Smoltz made his major league debut on April 23, 1988, struck out a career-high nine, walked two and ended Oakland's 151-game stretch without a complete game.

Mariners 5, Orioles 0

At Seattle, Jarrod Washburn tossed a onehitter for his ninth career complete game to lead the Mariners over Baltimore.

Nick Markakis had the only hit off Washburn (4-5), a two-out single in the fourth. Washburn faced just one batter over the minimum, issuing no walks and striking out three in his 110-pitch effort.

Russell Branyan hit his 21st homer, Chris Woodward doubled in two runs and Ichiro Suzuki had an RBI single for Seattle.

Angels 9, Rangers 4

At Anaheim, California, Jeff Mathis hit a go-ahead three-run homer and Torii Hunter and Juan Rivera added two-run singles as Los Angeles spoiled the return of Josh Hamilton to the Texas lineup.

The teams entered the game tied for first place in the AL West.

Hamilton, an All-Star starter, was 2 for 4 with a double and two strikeouts, after spending the previous 30 games on the disabled list after undergoing abdominal surgery.

Royals 4, Tigers 3

At Detroit, Mike Jacobs hit a go-ahead solo homer in the ninth and closer Joakim Soria held on for Kansas City's third straight win.

Willie Bloomquist drove in three runs for the Royals, connecting on a home run in the sixth and a two-run triple in the eighth.

Detroit's Ryan Raburn homered in the sixth and had an RBI double in the eighth, making it 3-all.

Jacobs broke the tie with a shot to right off Fernando Rodney, who entered in the ninth after Joel Zumaya allowed Bloomquist to put Kansas City ahead.

Blue Jays 7, Yankees 6

At New York, Ricky Romero extended his scoreless streak to 24 innings before Eric Hinske homered in his Yankees debut as Toronto avoided getting swept in a four-game series.

Alex Rios hit a three-run homer in the third off Andy Pettitte (8-4), and Scott Rolen extended his career-best hitting streak to 23 games with a two-run double in the seventh that made it 7-1.

Police: McNair's girlfriend bought gun last Thursday



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Steve McNair's 20year-old girlfriend bought a gun a couple of days before she was found dead along-

side the slain former NFL quarterback, her relative said Monday.

Farzin Abdi said police told him about the gun purchase by his aunt Sahel Kazemi, who was raised with him like a sister. Kazemi and McNair were found dead on Saturday in a Nashville condominium leased by the former Titans star.

Abdi said police told him they are almost sure Kazemi was the shooter,

but the 27-yearold nephew said he doesn't believe she would it. Abdi didn't know what day of the week the gun was purchased or what type of gun it was.



"There was no way she was depressed and wanting to do this," he said. "She was so happy. ... She just had it made, you know, (with) this guy taking care of everything."

Nashville police didn't immediately have a response to Abdi's comments.

Abdi said Kazemi believed McNair was divorcing his wife and she was preparing to sell her furniture to move in with him.

Nashville courts had no record of a McNair divorce case, but a 14,000square-foot home he owned in Nashville is on the market for \$3 million.

Mechelle McNair has been described as very distraught about her husband's death and has not commented on it.

Before their deaths, the public knew nothing of Kazemi's relationship with McNair, a star who had earned the respect of his fellow NFL players for shaking off defenders and injuries and the love of fans amazed at how the quarterback kept showing up for work—and winning.

He endeared himself further with his charity work. Not just from the checks he handed out, but for throwing himself into the efforts, like he did when loading boxes onto tractor-trailers bound for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Publicly, McNair was a happily married man and proud father of four sons who split his time between his Mississippi farm and a home in Music City, where celebrities are cherished, not hassled.

His death, however, thrust a darker side of his private life into the spotlight.

"People have certain things that they do in life," said McNair's longtime friend Robert Gaddy, who called 911. "We don't need to look on the situation at this time (but) on the fact we just lost a great member of society."

Even McNair's longtime agent said he didn't know about the former quarterback's relationship with Kazemi.

"As good as he was on the football field, that couldn't touch the person," agent Bus Cook said Sunday, still shaken by McNair's death. "I mean it just couldn't."

Hints of a problem with alcohol surfaced in May 2003 when a Nashville police officer pulled McNair over on suspicion of drunk driving. Police said the quarterback's blood alcohol content was 0.18 percent - well over Tennessee's legal limit. He also was charged with having a 9mm weapon with him, but all the charges were later dropped.

McNair was charged with drunken driving in 2007 because he let his brother-in-law drive his pickup truck. Those charges were later dropped when the DUI charge against the brother-in-law was reduced to reckless driving.

And McNair could have been charged again Thursday night when the same officer who arrested him in

2003 stopped

a 2007 Cadillac Escalade driven Kazemi and registered to both her and McNair. Kazemi was arrested on a DUI charge, and he was

allowed to leave in a taxi.

Police labeled his death a homicide Sunday, revealing McNair had been shot four times - twice in the head, twice in the chest - when found in a rented condominium he shared with a longtime friend, Wayne Neeley. Police found a semiautomatic pistol under Kazemi's body.

But police spokesman Don Aaron said they were reviewing every possibility, interviewing friends of both and an ex-boyfriend before labeling Kazemi's death.

On the football field, he simply was "Air McNair," a winner.

McNair still holds the NCAA's Football Championship Series (formerly Division I-AA) records for career yards passing (14,496) and total offense (16,823) from his days at tiny Alcorn State in Mississippi.

He played 13 NFL seasons, starting with the then-Houston Oilers, and led Tennessee to its famous last-second 2000 Super Bowl loss to the St. Louis Rams. He ended his career in Baltimore last season, after being traded away by the Titans after they drafted Vince Young as a replacement to the aching and expensive veteran.

McNair's friends want the quarterback to be remembered for his generosity. He gave away turkeys and checks in Tennessee, toys in Baltimore and paid for three football camps himself this year. Cook talked to someone Saturday who saw McNair cleaning up the field after one camp at Southern Mississippi.

"That was Steve McNair. That's who he is. And who he was," an emotional Cook recalled.

A viewing will be held Thursday at a Nashville funeral home, followed by another viewing at Mount Zion Baptist Church with a memorial service Thursday night. A funeral service will be held Saturday in Mississippi, but final details were not set.

McNair met Kazemi at the Dave & Buster's restaurant where she worked as a server and where his family ate often. The two began dating a few months ago in a relationship that included a vacation with parasailing. Photos posted on TMZ.com showed McNair gazing and smiling at the young Kazemi.

Playoff games in Shirley's caging reset to Friday

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER



The start of the playoff round of the 2009 Inaugural Shir-

ley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League is rescheduled for this Friday at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

Two games were originally set to kick off the playoffs in the Shirley's caging Monday night, but matches were called off due to rain.

Host Shirley's was supposed to duel Micronesian Brokers, Inc. in the first game with the winner advancing to the semifinals against pennant champion G4S.

In the second match, Pacific Trading, Inc. was scheduled to meet Advance X-Terminators with the victor colliding with Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in the other semis pairing.

League coordinator Boy Lingcaso said if the first round of the playoffs will push through this Friday, the semifinals will be played on Monday, while Game 1 of the best-of-three title series is set for next Wednesday.

"Right now, we will be on a wait-and-see mode. If weather permits, we will be able to wrap up the league next week. We will try to secure a few playing days at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium if this bad weather continues," Lingcaso said.

Lingcaso added that the awards banquet is tentatively scheduled for July 21 at Shirley's Susupe.

The league will be giving awards to the first three finishers and top individual performers, namely the members of the Mythical Five and regular season and Finals MVP. Leaders in rebounds, assists, steals, points, three-pointers, and blocks will also receive citations.

G4S took the No. 1 seeding in the six-team field after finishing the regular season with an 8-2 record. Actually, Fiesta tied G4S, but the former lost in the quotient system after bowing to the latter in their first meeting, 60-84. Fiesta won their second duel, 78-67.

The X-Terminators gained the No. 3 spot with their 6-4 mark, but lost three of its last four games. MBI was fourth with a 3-7 slate, while Shirley's also finished with a 3-7 record, but dropped to fifth place after losing to MBI twice in the regular season. PTC had a 1-9 mark, recording its only win against Fiesta in a double-overtime game, 96-89.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO Advance X-Terminators' Mike Olaitiman is seen here going for a layup against Fiesta's Ferdie Solidum during their game in the second round of the regular season of the Shirley's caging at the JP Center Basketball Court. Playoff games will begin this Friday if weather permits.



CNMI

From Page 28

Jeremy Lizama led off for the CNMI at the top of the fourth inning and doubled. Nathan Sablan walked and he and Lizama later reached home plate on Jose Lizama Jr.'s triple. Jose Lizama also made

it home on Khobby Kaipat's single to give the visitors their first taste of the lead, 3-2.

The Elmer Sablan-managed team hung in there and continued their recovery in the next three innings to become the only undefeated squad in the five-team field. Defending champion Guam holds a 2-1 slate after los-

ing to the Philippines, which holds a 1-1 mark. Hong Kong has a 1-1 slate, too, while Indonesia has a 0-2 slate. Only the Top 2 teams after the round robin play will advance to the finals with the winner earning a World Series stint.

After seizing control of the Game, the CNMI sluggers scored five more runs with Jhace

Palacios reaching home plate on Keen Guerrero's grounder in the fifth inning. Next to score was Guerrero on Gayvan Uchau's single. Ian Rogolifoi gave the CNMI its third run in the fifth inning as his single drove Jeremy Lizama home.

Jeremy Lizama then struck out two Filipino batters and the CNMI bets had a 1-3 putout play from relief pitcher Guerrero and first baseman Rogolifoi to end the bottom of the fifth inning with a 6-2 lead.

The CNMI Major All-Stars made it 8-2 at the top of the sixth inning, logging two more runs on Philippines errors.

Guerrero continued his good relief job on the mound at the bottom of the last inning, as he

struck out two batters and then picked up a grounder and threw to second baseman Palacios for the third out.

Jeremy pitched five and 2/3 innings, allowed only one hit. walked three, and struck out 11.

Next up for the CNMI Major All-Stars is Guam today and they will cap their pool game on Thursday against Indonesia.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

36 47 .434

44 38 .537

42 40 .512

46 35 .568

36 46 .439 8

44 39 .530 5 1/2 43 41 .512

43 40 .518 1 1/2

33 50 .398 11 1/2

46 35 .568 __ 45 36 .556 1 43 39 .524 3 1/2

35 46 .432 11

13 1/2

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

Central Division

Boston

New York

Toronto

Minnesota

Chicago

Kansas City

West Division

Los Angeles

Seattle

Oakland

Cleveland

INTER

From Page 28

win-draw-loss record to 2-2-0.

Inter now has eight points after four games and kept the No. 1 spot in the seventeam field.

Evan Hunsberger manned Inter's goal and made several saves, especially in the second half.

Inter's first win was against Matansa, 2-0, on June 14. Its game against newcomer Remington on June 7 and Korean Junior (June 28) resulted in draws.

MP United 7, Independents 0

Another CNMI National striker shone in last Sunday's game with Joe Miller nailing four goals in MP United's 7-0 shutout win over Independents Football Club.

Miller logged his first goal in the game in the 16th minute and his next two came almost in succession with his second at the 30th minute and the third at the 32nd. He scored his fourth and last one in the second half, as he made it to the scoreboard in the 48th minute.

Youth player Dae Min Jeon drew first blood for MP Unit-

ed, scoring in the 15th minute and added one more in the 77th minute.

Nick Swaim also found the back of the net in the second half, drilling his lone goal in the 73rd minute.

The victory moved MP United from sixth to solo third place, as it now holds a 2-0-2 record and has six points.

Independents FC dropped to 1-0-2 mark and is at the sixth place in the team standings.

Remington 7, Matansa 2

In the first game in Week 4 of the league, Remington claimed solo

second place after downing Matansa Football Club, 7-2.

Coming into last Sunday's game, Remington was tied for second place with Korean Junior, which drew a bye in Week 4. Remington now has seven points with its 2-1-1 record against Korean Junior's four points and 1-1-1 slate. Thoengaket Jeeraphong tal-

lied three goals for Remington, Kirk Schuler made two, and Yukimi Adachi and Koichiro Nakamura hand one apiece.

Tej Gurung and Bij Tamang scored Matansa's two goals, all in the first half.

Gurung gave Matansa an

early 1-0 lead when he nailed his lone goal in the sixth minute, but Thoengaket Jeeraphong quickly tied it after four minutes.

The game ended in tie in the first half as Jeeraphong added one more goal in the 31st minute, while Tamang canned one in the 41st.

Remington then tightened up its defense in the second half, giving up no goals to Matansa. On offense, Nakamura, Schuler, and Adachi made it into the scoreboard to join forces with Jeeraphong in lifting Remington to its second win.

"No Luv" Laayug (4-1), Slade

"The Rage" Adelbai (7 wins, 3

losses, 1 draw), and Syl "The

Tickets for Trench Warz X:

Collission will go on sale soon.

General admission costs \$25

and VIP is \$35. Alvarez said

doors will open at 7pm with the

Deal" Teregeyo (4-3).

fights starting at 8pm.

NATIONAL LEAGUE **East Division** Philadelphia 43 37 538 43 41 .512 2 Florida signed up to see action in Trench 39 42 .481 41/2 Warz X are Fasi "Quickdraw" Atlanta 39 43 .476 5 Jesse (4 wins and 0 losses), Chris

Central Division

45 39 .536 Milwaukee 43 39 .524 41 39 .513 2 Chicago 40 41 .494 3 1/2 40 41 .494 3 1/2 Cincinnati Houston 37 46 .446 7 1/2

West Division

52 30 .634 San Francisco 45 37 .549 7 43 39 .524 9 San Diego 35 47 .427 17 34 49 .410 18 1/2 Arizona

Yesterday's Games

Toronto 7, N.Y. Yankees 6 Kansas City 4, Detroit 3 Oakland 6, Boston 0 L.A. Angels 9, Texas 4 Seattle 5, Baltimore 0 Chicago Cubs 4, Atlanta 2 Philadelphia 22, Cincinnati 1 Houston 4. Pittsburgh 1 Colorado 1, Washington 0 Arizona 6, San Diego 5 San Francisco 5, Florida 4

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

NMIFA STANDINGS

	W	D	L	Pts.
Inter	2	2	0	8
Remington	2	1	0	7
MP United	2	0	2	6
Korea Junior	1	1	1	4
Matansa	1	0	2	3
Independents	1	0	2	3
KFAS	1	0	3	3

up as much 10 lbs. to Ted-THE TERROR taotao as he weighs a mere 230 lbs. He will be fighting out of Marianas Elite.

> Six other Saipan vs. Guam fights are in store for Trench Warz X: Collision and they are the following:

- Manny "The Enforcer" Chong vs. Marianas Elite's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial in the main event;

developing her game, Fernandez

in about two years blossomed as

one of the CNMI's bets in tennis

tournaments for 18-and-under

The Marianas Baptist Acade-

my student ruled the girls' 18-and-

under division of the 2009 North

Pacific Qualifying Tournament in

Guam last month. The qualifier

was her first tournament outside

Saipan and she went undefeated

in five games. Fernandez was also

a consistent contender in the past

junior and adults tournaments on

After conquering the tourna-

ment in Guam, Fernandez now

focuses on the POJC in Fji.

Saipan this year.

age group.

Saures vs. Da Crew 671's Mike "Ogre" Davis in the big brawl;

- Spike 22/Ground Fu's Tony "Rush" Reyes vs. Tanapag Beach Badd Boiz/Team Zogai's Ryan Gardee in the 140-lb. division;
- Spike 22/Ground Fu's Jun "Shockeraba" San Nicolas vs. Marianas Elite's Martin Ayuyu in the 130-b. division;
- Spike 22/Ground Fu's ■ XXTREME's "Kill" Bill Thomas "The Saint" Calvo vs.

Predator Combat Team's Nate "The Terrible" Flores in the 155-lb. division; and

■ Spike 22/Ground Fu's Shawn "The Ace" Mantanona vs. Team Zogai's Shane "Insane" Camacho in the 180-lb. division.

Alvarez said he is also looking to pair four more Saipan fighters with Guam fighters in the following days.

The four local fighters that have

tennis for only two years, Fernandez believes there is more room for improvement and one of them is to develop a type of hitting similar to his idol, world No. 1 Roger

"I really like his style and I enjoy watching him play on any

"I practice regularly for the tournament in Fiji. In POJC, I aim to win as much games as I can and gain more experience in the process, as I will be competing against seasoned players. Also, to stay as mentally tough as possible and not get easily discouraged by defeats," Fernandez said. Besides tennis, the CNMI

netter also plays volleyball and basketball in school and does mountain biking once in a while to improve her fitness. However, she chose to focus on tennis, as she likes the mental preparation that is involved in this sport.

"Tennis is a mental game

which requires concentration on your match which sums up much to my studies, as I graduated valedictorian in my junior high at Saipan Community School. Tennis keeps me physically fit, healthy, and mentally tough on and off the court," Fernandez said.

Since she is involved with Federer of Switzerland.

kind of court surface (clay, grass, concrete). He is also one of the few top tennis players who uses one-hand topspin backhand, which I am trying to learn. He also shows a good example of a positive attitude by maintaining his poise on the court. He has a tough fighting spirit, as despite facing numerous obstacles in his career last year, [losing the Wimbledon finals to Rafael Nadal last year, having No. 1 spot taken, etc.], he was able to come back, make more history, and regain the No. 1 ranking. He gives me the motivation to keep going despite the obstacles that come my way," Fernandez said.

stand up prowess. I'm expecting

an awesome fight between him and Myron. Myron's youth and exuberance will be a true test for Eric to handle and Myron vows to come out the victor."

San Nicolas enters the fight with an impressive 7-1 winloss record but will be giving

CONFIDENCE

From Page 28

From Page 28

which encouraged me not to give up," Fernandez said.

"Although I lost this match, it motivated me to practice more and enhance my skills for future competitions. I learned a lot from my coach during my early stages in his class. He was the one who encouraged me to join the different competitions on the island. His encouragement allowed me to have self confidence," she added.

With Race to back her up and guide her in every step toward

2009 UBA Summer Youth Basketball League



The IT&E Rollers flash the No. 1 sign after claiming the championship in Division III (20-and-under) of the 2009 UBA Summer Youth Basketball League.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Sonics pose for a group photo after beating Rollers A in the finals of Division I (15-and-under).



ROSELYN B. MONROYO Rollers A' Jon Norita pulls up for a shot against Sonics defenders.



Jose Tudela, right, of the Pink Bunny's receives the runner-up trophy from UBA president James Lee.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO Sixers teammates Dino Palacios, left, and Nathan Flores collide as they go after the ball during their championship game against the Kagman Ayuyus last Wednesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.



The Sonics' Melvin Cadiang goes up for a fall away jumper against Rollers A's Jon Norita during their championship game in Division I at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium on June 29.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO The Ayuyus' Jimmy Brel goes for a fastbreak layup against the Sixers' Dino Palacios.



The Ayuyus' Dominic Reyes looks for a teammate to pass the ball to, as the Sixers' Chris Duenas guards him at the baseline during their championship game in Division II.





Rollers A show their runner-up photo. Also in the photo is league supporter, Rep. Ed Salas, standing left.

A wily Armstrong jumps from 10th to 3rd



With a savvy sense of the pack and a touch of luck, the 37-yearold Texan surprised some of the younger Tour de France contenders Monday to move within striking distance of the yellow jersey. **24**



Playoff games in Shirley's caging reset to Friday

The start of the playoff round of the 2009 Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League is rescheduled for this Friday at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan. **26**



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2009

CNMI All-Stars boost World Series chances

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

he CNMI Major All-Stars strengthened their finals chances and World Series bid after thumping the Philippines, 8-2, in the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament yesterday at the Hong Kong Disneyland Baseball Field.



It was the CNMI sluggers' second straight win in as many games in the tournament after

edging host Hong Kong in their debut game, 2-1, last Monday.

The Commonwealth's bets rallied from a 0-2 deficit after three innings, as they began hitting their targets at the top of the fourth inning.



The CNMI's Jeremy Lizama delivers a pitch, while shortstop Jose Lizama, Jr. looks on during their game against the Philippines in the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament yesterday at the Hong Kong Disneyland Baseball Field.

Inter keeps lead in men's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



CNMI National player Chris Nelson helped Inter Football

Club maintain its unbeaten record, notching a goal in the first half to lift the team to a 1-0 win over Korean Football Association of Saipan in last Sunday's game in the 2009 NMIFA Men's Football League at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Nelson made the match's lone goal, his fourth in the league, in the 32nd minute to improve Inter Godfather's See INTER on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Inter's Jake Hess is sandwiched by a Korean Football Association of Saipan player, left, and teammate Bruce Berline as they go after the ball during their game in the 2009 NMIFA Men's Football League last Sunday at the Olea Sports Complex Field.



'The Terror' to challenge 'The Natural'

By MARK RABAGO

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No less than Guam's top heavyweight contender will blow into Saipan's shores for Trench Warz X: Collision set for July 31 at the Saipan World Resort.

Team Lockdown's "The Eric Terror" Tedtaotao will go up against Saipan's Myron

"The Natural" San Nicolas in one of two semi main events of the month-end MMA thriller.

The 240-lb. super heavyweight

comes to fight with a 6-win, 2-loss record—the two losses came against bona fide MMA superstars Charleston "The Predator" Aiken of Saipan and Manny "The Enforcer" Chong of Guam.

Even Trench Tech president and owner Cuki Alvarez acknowledges that

Tedtaotao is the sure thing and believes he will give San Nicolas a run for his money.

"He weighs 240 lbs. and is very athletic for a big man. His style is groundand-pound but he also has excellent

See THE TERROR on Page 26





Confidence key for Fernandez

Two years ago, Jodel Fernandez was as scared as a novice fighter going up against a seasoned foe. Now, she is armed with confidence, as she prepares for the biggest tournament so far in her young playing years in tennis.

Fernandez is among the seven CNMI netters who will suit up for the North Pacific Team and play against the top players in the East and West teams in the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji next month.

The 16-year-old player owed her transformation from a reluctant player to a contender to her father, Fidel, CNMI coach Jeff Race, and the challenging games she played since her first tournament in May 2007.

Jodel Fernandez said no one influ-

enced her to try tennis, but one day her father bought a racket and balls and she tried playing with it.

"Without any bit of experience with the game, I was suddenly enthused. The great interest I have shown in the game made my dad decide to find me a good coach in the person of coach Jeff Race," the younger Fernandez said.

Fernandez then recalled how she achieved the top of her game and recovered from the tough obstacles she faced in her first few tournaments.

"I had my first competition in the 2007 DFS Tennis Tournament. I was so scared at first knowing that my opponent has much more experience than I have. I lost the game and at first I was discouraged. Coach noticed this immediately and he gave me words of wisdom

See CONFIDENCE on Page 26